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THE
Bloody Register.

A Select and Judicious
COLLECTION
OF THE
Most Remarkable TRIALS,
FOR
MURDER, TREASON, RAPE, SODOMY,
HIGHWAY ROBBERY, PYRACY,
HOUSE-BREAKING, PERJURY, FOR-
GERY, and other high Crimes and
Misdemeanors. From the Year 1700,
to the Year 1764 inclusive.

*Learn to be wise from others Harms,
And you shall do full well.*

VOL. I.

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P R E F A C E.

AS we have undertaken to furnish the Public with a compleat and authentic account of persons convicted of the most atrocious crimes, from the year 1700, to 1764 inclusive, we think it necessary to give some account of what is contained in the following Volumes, as well as the motive that has induced us to this publication.

As there has not been any book of this nature published for some years past, we flatter ourselves that this work will not be unacceptable to the generality of our Readers, as it contains the most striking and interesting Trials, that could be selected from all former productions of this kind; many of which are entirely new, particulars set forth in a far more explicit manner than what has hitherto been inserted in any of those catch-penny accounts,

accounts, which are calculated for, and compiled by, the sons of Grubstreet, who daily palm their spurious works upon the public for authentic. However, we have taken all care imaginable in compiling this work, to render it more compendious than any hitherto made, and have studiously avoided all terms in law, which has but too much infested the works of our predecessors, and have thrown the whole into the form of a pleasing Narrative.

It is, without dispute, every man's business, who writes upon any subject, to correct the errors committed by others, especially if his productions are of any consequence. The reasons we assign for his doing so, are two: First, that it is for the benefit of the Public; and, Secondly, for his own credit, lest this omission should be imputed to his ignorance; nor should the credit of any particular person be preferred to the benefit of the Public; but these amendments should be made in decent language, and the perfections, as well as the errors, of his predecessors should be impartially noted. Therefore I hope to be excused, in taking the liberty of rectifying the mistakes, and correcting the language of those authors who have given the Public repeated specimens of their abilities, copying their works from the

the fessions papers, without paying any regard to the facts inserted in the different narratives given by the ordinaries of Newgate; from whence we have taken every thing that is requisite to enhance the value of this work: not that we have wholly confined ourselves to their accounts, but have likewise made it our study to collect, with the help of gentlemen acquainted with the unhappy malefactors, their friends, or relations (whose veracity we could rely on) such other accounts as are any ways necessary to the accomplishing our design, in rendering these Volumes both useful and instructive to our Readers.

Yet, notwithstanding what we have here said, we would not be understood to intimate, that any man ought to sound his own praise, or deprecate the just merits of others; since this would indicate his vanity rather than his knowledge, and would render him justly despicable in the eyes of the more sensible part of mankind: For if there is no real merit in the performance, the publication thereof is an imposition upon the purchaser, which no apology can excuse; and, if there is, it stands in no need of apology; but on the contrary, it is the authors indispenible duty to his benefactors, to give a fair and

and honest representation of his work; and the reason wherefore he differs from others that have wrote on the same subject before him; that they may thereby be able to judge whether they think it worthy their inspection, and how far it deserves their encouragement.

We will not intrude upon the reader's patience any longer, by enlarging upon the great good we hope will accrue to mankind from perusing the following work; by which the rising generation will be deterred from launching out into the world of vice, if with attention they consider the miserable fate of the many unhappy wretches, who have suffered for committing the crimes herein related: But as marble taken out of the quarry shews none of its inherent beauties, till it has gone through the hands of the polisher; neither is a virtuous man known to be so, until he has undergone temptations.

THE BLOODY REGISTER.

*The Trial of Captain EDMUND TOOLL,
for Highway Robbery, and Murder.*

EDMUND TOOLL, alias Tooley, of the parish of Finchley, in the county of Middlesex, was indicted upon three different indictments. The first was, for robbing one John Oldham on the highway, and taking from him a sword belt, a pair of boots, a gelding worth five guineas, and two pounds ten shillings in money, the property of Robert Leaver, Esq. The second indictment was, for robbing the said Robert Leaver on the highway, and taking from him a pair of shag breeches, a sword, a pair of pistols, and several other things. And the third was, for the murder of the said Robert Leaver, mortally wounding him by a pistol shot, the eleventh of July, 1699, of which he languished in a most deplorable condition till the next day, and then expired. Mr. Leaver's man deposed, upon the trial, that his master and he, travelling towards Lancashire, were attacked the day above mentioned, between ten and eleven o'clock at night, by some highwaymen, between

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Highgate and Finchley Common, who wounded them, took away their horses, carried them into the fields, cut him in the head, stabbed him in the back, striped them, took from them a portmanteau and the things before recited, bound and used them most cruelly, and then left them. Another evidence deposed, that, passing that way, he saw a firing through a hedge, from whence, soon after, came several men who set upon the deceased and his servant. That they forced him, by threats and imprecations, to go along with them and hold their horses, while they stripped the deceased and his man; stamped upon his face and stomach, because he would not lay on his belly; upon which the deceased begged very hard that they would spare his life. At their going away, they threw one of the coats they had taken from the deceased to him, which this evidence, taking up, put over Mr. Leaver's shoulders, knowing him to be wounded in the back; which one of the highwaymen perceiving, said, "damn him, he is untying him, shoot him" and ran after him; when he, falling down, begged hard for his life, which, by mere dint of eloquence, he at length obtained. A third evidence asserted, that he was present with Too'l, the prisoner, in the robbery; who, with two more, about duskish, in the evening of the eleventh of July as has before been recited, being two on horseback and two on foot, having concealed themselves in a thicket for the space of half an hour, heard the noise of the deceased and his man coming along the road; upon which the prisoner rode up to the deceased in order to seize him, and caught hold of his sword, which coming out of the scabbard, the deceased

deceased rode away; but the prisoner firing after him, wounded him in the back part of his body near to the fundament, of which he afterwards died. The prisoner then carried the deceased and his servant into the fields, robbed and bound them, which done, they rode away to Whetstone, so to Enfield Chace, and over Epping Forest, to the Green Man at Stratford, where they dined, and came to London the next evening.

It was also made to appear, that the prisoner brought the deceased's horse to be put to grass, and had on the deceased's cloaths when he was apprehended at the Blue Ball, in Germain Street, where he made a resolute and desperate resistance before his apprehension, firing pistols at those who endeavoured to apprehend him, of whom he wounded several; and, when taken, was shortening his sword to have stabbed the person who laid hold of him; which the prisoner hearing the evidence depose, notwithstanding his being at the bar, said, "he was sorry he had not stabbed him to the heart." The prisoner denied the facts alledged against him; he owned that he had the cloaths which were swore to be the deceased's, but said, that he bought them. The matter being so plainly proved against him, the Jury brought him in guilty of all the three Indictments.

He was indicted a fourth time, together with one Brian Sullivan, for robbing one Hugh Floyd on the highway, and taking from him a bay mare, value eight pounds; eighteen pounds of butter, and six shillings and sixpence in money, on the eleventh of October. The evidence deposed, that the prisoners and some other persons, their confederates, held a rope cross the road, which

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which stopped the prosecutor, and the rest came to him and robbed him. The Jury found them both guilty, and accordingly they received sentence of death. In further punishment of Tooll's barbarity, he was sentenced to be hanged in chains in the nearest place to where he had committed the murder and robbery.

When he came to the place of execution he delivered a paper to Mr. Allen, the then ordinary of Newgate, which was to the following effect:

That he was born of a good and reputable family in Ireland, tho' reduced to poverty by his parents being obliged to forfeit their estates in the war of 1641. He was educated in the Roman Catholic religion, in which persuasion he died. His parents not bringing him up to any trade was the reason he affirms for following a military course of life, having served King Charles the Second faithfully, as also King James, in whose guards he was eldest captain during his stay in Ireland. But having, soon after, a difference with a superior officer, he was obliged to quit the service and come to England, from whence he went to France; but finding little encouragement from the party whose cause he had espoused, returned to this Kingdom; where, being reduced to poverty, he joined himself to a gang of highwaymen, and, with them, committed several robberies. Though he was the unhappy cause of Mr. Leaver's death, yet he protested that he always abhorred the very thoughts of murder. The account he gave of the murder is this; that he, accompanied with two others, whom he did not chuse to name, designed to take some money from the countrymen returning from market; for

for which reason they repaired to Finchley Common, where they saw Mr. Leaver and his man with a portmanteau, which they concluded would answer their expectation. That he rode up to the gentleman with an intent to steal his sword, but, being better mounted than himself, he got clear off, and presently returned and fired a pistol at him; upon which he came close to Mr. Leaver with an intent to shoot the horse, but, to his no small grief, wounded him. Yet in his opinion, he says, the bad usage which the gentleman met with from his companions greatly contributed to his death. He finishes his paper by saying, that "This is the truth as I am a dying man, and I "pray God forgive my sins, which are as the sand "on the sea shore. Into thy hands, O God, I "commend my spirit: O Jesu Maria! have mercy "on the soul of the unfortunate."

He was executed on Finchley Common, the 2d of February, 1700, and afterwards hanged in chains near the place where he had committed the Murder.

*The Life, Trial, &c. of JOHN LARKIN,
for High Treason.*

JOHN LARKIN, alias Robert Young, was indicted at the Sessions House in the Old Baily, the 5th of April 1700, for High Treason, and counterfeiting the current coin of this kingdom. The evidence being full against him, the jury found him guilty of the indictment, and he received sentence of death accordingly.

After

After sentence being passed, during his confinement in Newgate, he was visited by the ordinary, to whom he made the following confession: That he was born at Antrim in Ireland, and his parents, perceiving his genius was inclined to learning, kept him, for a considerable time, close to school, where he became a great proficient in several sciences, and particularly in philosophy; upon which they thought it requisite to send him to the university. Accordingly he was entered as a student in the university of Glasgow, in Scotland, where he staid for some time, and then returned to Ireland and commenced schoolmaster; in which capacity he behaved himself so well, that he gained a general Applause: but being of a roving unsettled disposition, he left his school, and visited the remotest parts of that Kingdom; where, taking upon him the gown, he performed several offices belonging to that sacred function. After which he came to England, and lived some time in Lancashire, being master of a free school there, and having under his tuition about a hundred scholars; but he was so bad an oeconomist, and lived at such a rate, that his income would not answer his exorbitant expences, which put him upon inventing some other means to support his profuse way of life. At length he came to a resolution how he might accomplish his designs, which was by forging bonds, &c. Which pernicious practices he became so great a proficient in, that he said he could perform it with such dexterity, that it would be difficult for the person himself to distinguish his own hand-writting from his counterfeit.

This, for some time, was his sole employ, and brought him in no small gain. He confessed that he had oftentimes affixed the hand of a bishop, and several other eminent divines, to his letters testimonial, and by that means collected several considerable sums of money, under pretence of redeeming poor Christian captives who were detained in slavery: He likewise forged goldsmiths notes and bills of exchange. He followed this course of life for some time, till at length his villainies were detected, and justice overtook him; for which he suffered an ignominious punishment, being pilloried, fined, and committed to prison, till such time as he could discharge his fine, which was so considerable, that all thoughts of liberty were vanished. While he was in prison, some that were evidences against him at his trial, used to coin several sums of money, and endeavoured to persuade him to assist them; but he says, that he actually refused their solicitations on that account, nor did ever coin or had any of the money to his share, but only saw them do it. The ordinary suspecting that in this he was not sincere, the contrary having been so positively sworn in court, pressed him to be ingenuous in his confession. To which he replied, he understood his duty very well, though he had acted contrary to it; but if he died, at the place of execution he would discover something to him that might be of service to several persons concerned in the same wicked practices with himself.

When at the place of execution he informed the Ordinary of what hitherto he had concealed; which was as follows: That being confined in Newgate with one Charles Newey, who was con-

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victed for felony, and also pilloried and fined for suborning an evidence to swear falsely, he was prevailed upon, by Newey, for a sum of money, to write a very scurrilous libel, called, the Case of Capt. Charles Newey, which he promised to print speedy, containing very notorious falsehoods and scandalous reflections on the Lord Chief Baron, and the other Judges, the Recorder, several Justices of the peace, and others who tryed him; for which he heartily begged their pardons. After confessing this to the Ordinary, he turned to the people, and, in a very pathetic and moving manner, desired them to take warning by his punishment, and hoped that his death might deter others from committing the like sins, which he was brought there to suffer for. After prayers he turned himself to the numerous spectators that attended to see him make his last exit, took a decent leave of them, and, thanking the Ordinary for his repeated visitations while under condemnation in Newgate, delivered to him a paper to the following effect:

That he being sensible how justly he had provoked the Almighty God to anger, by the numerous offences he had committed, thought it his duty to leave the world a true narrative of his prevaricating steps; but not having sufficient time to complete such a work, he only mentions the following few passages of his life.

The first of which was, his being concerned in a pretended plot supposed to have been carried on by the Earls of Marlborough and Salisbury, the Bishop of Rochester, and several others, for which he was committed to Newgate, till such time as he could discharge a large fine imposed upon him. During his confinement, one Henry Pearson was committed to the same place for debt, who, per-

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ceiving him to be very expert in counterfeiting hands, told him, that if he could contrive a sham plot, and father it upon those Noble Lords, he soon might obtain money enough to pay his fine: at that time being in very low circumstances, he readily consented to this proposal; but told him, that nothing could be done in that affair till he was released, which soon after was effected. When he had obtained his liberty he employed one Blackhead to carry letters between them: he having got a sight of the Earl of Marlborough's hand, counterfeited it with so much dexterity, that it was very difficult to discern the true from the false: This done, he drew up an association, and affixed to it the hands of the Earls of Marlborough and Salisbury, with several other persons of distinction, wrote by another hand; and that more credit might be given to his pretended plot, he wrote several letters in Lord Marlborough's name, supposed to be directed to himself, which Blackhead used to bring to him again; who swore before the Lords of the Council, that the Earl had sent them him, though at the same time he was well assured that Larkin forged them, and ordered them to be sent in that manner. He also declares, that he neither set the Bishop of Rochester's or the Lord Cornbury's hands to the paper, yet acknowledges it to be done by his appointment. He pleads ignorance to the accusation of having written different threatening letters to the Bishop of Rochester, or being any ways concerned in the same. As for the crime of coining, for which he died, he declared himself no otherwise guilty than by being a spectator of the same. But notwithstanding his being not guilty of this fact, yet, he said, he must lay his hand upon his mouth, and

confess, "that the Lord is righteous, and his judgments upright": For he injured his neighbours so often by forgeries, cheats &c. that he thought it almost impossible to recount them. ---- In the year 1695, being at that time in the King's Bench Prison, he got himself removed, by Habeas Corpus, to the Fleet, where he was acquainted with several of the prisoners, who agreed to cheat one Mr. Labinby, of Leeds in Yorkshire, out of cloth to the value of 135 l. which accordingly was effected. In the year 1697, he was, by the Warden of the Fleet, removed back again to the Kings Bench, where he came acquainted with several other prisoners belonging to that Prison, with whose aid and advice he endeavoured to cheat by false bills of exchange, and forged letters, Mr. Seth Lofthouse, a Goldsmith, in Fleet Street, and Mr. Peter Block Machiels, a Merchant of Amsterdam, out of 2000 l. but that failing, Mr. John Cary, one concerned with Larkin in the plot, was pilloried for the same. After this he forged leases, as under Doctor Thomas Lamplugh's hand; he cheated men in London out of several hundred pounds, by way of mortgage: And in the year 1698, he cheated Mr. Azarich Reynolds, an undertaker, of a velvet pall, two cloaks &c. by a forged letter, as from a correspondent in the country, for which he was committed to Newgate, and fined 200 marks at Guildhall, where he was tryed and convicted.

In Newgate he came acquainted with Jones, the evidence, whom, he says, he saw coin in the Debtors Hall several sums of money. How far he was concerned with them I have already observed.

And to conclude, in his own words, he says, But I forgive them, and do humbly beg God and the persons I have wronged to forgive me those wicked

wicked actions I have committed. Into thy hands, O God, I commend my spirit; Lord Jesus receive the Soul of the unhappy and miserable.

He was hanged at Tyburn, in company with Robert Young, and Thomas Allifon, convicted of a burglary, the 19th of April 1700.

The Trial of LEWIS GUITTAR, and Seventy others, for Pyracy.

LEWIS Guittar, and seventy others, Pyrates, were indicted, October 25, 1700, at the Old Bailey, for pyracy and robbery on the High Seas, having, on the 28th of the preceeding April, pyratically set upon a Merchant Ship, called the Nicholas, commanded by Robert Lurting, Master, about two leagues from Cape Henry, upon the coast of Virginia; the ship and apparel value 3000l. and 700 hogsheads of tobacco, value 200l.

The first evidence that was sworn was Captain Lurting, who deposed, that as he was riding at anchor in Linhaven Bay, within the Cape, he saw the pyrate and three sail more come in, between ten and eleven o'clock in the morning; upon which one of his men hailed the pyrate, asking him, from whence he came? to whom they answered in English, "from the sea, you 'dogs,'" and immediately hung out their bloody colours. This gave the captain a suspicion of their design, who, in hopes of frustrating their wicked intentions, ordered his men to slip the cable, endeavour to put to sea, and set his sails; but they fired upon him so violently with small

shot, that at length he was obliged to desist; and finding it impossible to escape them, he struck his Ancient; which they no sooner perceived, than they sent a boat to take him out of the ship, and convey him aboard theirs, where he was confined in the hold till the next morning: during that time the pyrate's crew went on board his ship, and made his men work all that night to throw the goods into the sea, of which they threw ninety nine hogsheads of tobacco overboard: The next day the captain of the pyrates ordered him to be brought upon the quarter deck, and, offering him a spying glass, bid him to look how his goods were swimming, which he refused to do; but, turning his face the other way, he saw the Shoreham Galley Man of War making sail towards them. However, they forced him down into the hold again, where he heard a Dutchman calling with a speaking trumpet to their men that were in the prizes, to come on board, which accordingly they did.

By this time the Man of War came up, and engaged them; which, after an obstinate battle of four hours, obliged them to run their ship a-ground, and forced the crew to make the best of their way to the shore; which done, they attempted to burn the ship Nicholas, crying out, A Brulee, a Brulee; at the same time, there were fifty Englishmen prisoners in the hold; but it happened that two of the men swam to shore, and acquainted the governor of Virginia of the distress the rest of the crew and men were in; upon which he ordered persons to their assistance, and preserved the men and ship, by capitulating with the pyrates, and giving them quarter.

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The next evidence deposed, that he was one who had been on board the pyrate nineteen weeks, and was well assured, that the prisoners were all on board the pyrate, and that Lewis Guittar was captain, who, during the time he was on board, had taken twelve ships, besides the Nicholas, which were English and Dutch.

Other evidences further deposed, that the pyrates did torture them: the first of which said, that after they had took him on board the pyrates ship, they examined him, asked him where the ship Jeffery was? which he told them; they likewise asked him, if there was any Man of War in the country? and he also told them there was one of 50 guns; after which they sent him on board the Nicholas again, where one of the pyrates, calling him upon the quarter deck, unscrewed the flint of his fuzee, and made him put in his thumb; then screwed it fast, and unscrewed it again, putting his little finger in the same manner, and telling him he had told a lye, by saying there was a Man of War in the country. After this, they lashed and beat him with their cutlasses, telling him, that their intention was to cut off his head, and for that purpose they made him lay it on a block, first causing him to put his hair under his cap; they laid the cutlass upon his neck, but did not cut him much. After this, they beat him with the mizen-braises, and gave him near 500 blows; till at length one of them said he had enough, and so let him go, calling for another of them to be sent up, saying, it was very fine sport.

A third evidence told the court, that they tied his hands behind him, and afterwards hoisted him up with a rope, and bruised his shoulder

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shoulders in so terrible a manner, with the ends of ropes tyed in knots, that he had ever since lost the use of one of his arms. Several other evidences deposed much to the same effect.

The prisoners, in their defence, pleaded, that some of them were sick on board ; others, that they were under age, or found on board, being taken out of ships and barks at Rochel, Petit, Guiaves Cuviaffo, and other places ; and that others were hunters in the woods, and fishermen ; and some of them proving their allegations, were acquitted, but the rest found guilty.

Three other indictments were also found against John Dubois, Peter Maingeneau, and seven more for pyracy and robbery on the High Seas. The first was, for robbing the ship Nicholas. The Second was, for robbing the ship called the Indian King, commanded by Captain Whittaker, Master, near Cape Henry, in Virginia, the 28th of April 1700, and the ship and apparel value 4000l. 1000 hogsheads of tobacco, and 100 ounces of silver. And the third was, for robbing the ship called the Pensilvania Merchant, Samuel Harrison, Master, on the 24th of April 1700, about 50 leagues from Virginia, and taking the Sloop, apparel, and goods to the value of 300l.

The evidences fully proved Dubois and Main-geneau guilty of the several crimes specified in the indictments, having plundered the Pensylvania Merchant, and afterwards set her on fire ; so that they were both found guilty : but as for the rest of them, it plainly appeared, that they had been cast away upon an uninhabited island near Hispaniola, where there was neither fresh water or provisions to be got, and where they had continued seven or eight days without the least subsistence, before

before they espied the pyrate, whom they no sooner saw than they made a signal, just as the ship was sailing by them; upon which they were taken a-board.

The Jury maturely weighing these circumstances, deemed them not guilty; whereupon they were acquitted. The rest, being in number fifty-two, received sentence of death; three of these died in Newgate, after their condemnation; twenty-five were reprieved, and twenty-four, at one time, were executed at Execution Dock, the 14th of November 1700. Many of them being foreigners, of different nations, and professors of the roman catholic religion, made but little or no confession: The Ordinary only says of them, that several seemed to be penitent, and he hoped they were so.

*The Trial of JOHN COWLAND, for Stabbing
Sir ANDREW SLANNING, Bart.*

ON the 5th of December 1700, was indicted, at the Old Baily, upon three indictments, Mr. John Cowland, Gent.; the First indictment, at the common law, the Second upon the statute of Stabbing, and the Third upon the coroners inquest, for the murder of Sir Andrew Slanning, Bart.

The first evidence asserted, that as she sat behind Sir Andrew in the pit at the play-house, he fell into discourse with an Orange-woman, telling her, that a friend of his met a woman in the play-house, who afterwards abused him, and had taken 5l. worth of hair out of his peruke,

peruke, and likewise picked his pocket ; upon which she told Sir Andrew, that, for a guinea, she believed she could tell him who the person was, and also get him the things again : Sir Andrew thanked her for her kindness, and desired to have the pleasure of drinking a glass of wine with her after the play was ended, which she agreed to. As soon as the play was done, Captain Wagget went out first, and, not knowing the way, fell down the steps ; upon which they went out Drury Lane way. Sir Andrew then asked her, if that was the nearest way to the Rose Tavern ? she told him, that it was not the nearest, but they might go through Vinegar Yard ; in which place Mr. Cowland met them, and put his arm round her neck ; Sir Andrew desired him to be civil, saying, she was his wife : but the prisoner said, he could not have two at once ; upon which they drew their swords, but no pass was made, for the croud drove them as far as the Rose Tavern, to which place Captain Wagget came, and, interposing, desired them to walk in, where he would endeavour to make up the quarrel. In the mean time Sir Andrew and she went into the Kitchen ; and high words passed between Captain Wagget and Mr. Cowland, who seemed to be very angry, and would not put it up ; but, by much importunity, they were reconciled, and agreed to go up stairs and take a glass of wine ; upon which they called Sir Andrew out of the kitchcn : Mr. Cowland went up foremost, and being about half way up the stairs, drew his sword and scabbard out of the belt. Sir Andrew and she went next, and Captain Wagget the last of all. But when Mr. Cowland came to the top of the stairs,

stairs, before Sir Andrew spoke a word, or gave him the least provocation, or had even time to draw his sword, ran him in the belly, who being in this manner basely wounded, cried out, murder: upon which one of Lord Warwick's gentlemen and two more running up stairs, apprehended Mr. Cowland, and immediately disarmed him of his sword, which was bloody on the blade about the length of five inches.

A confirmation of what this evidence had deposed was asserted by several others, with this addition; that, afterwards, Mr. Cowland desired to see Sir Andrew; which at length being granted, he took an opportunity of leaping down stairs, in order to make his escape, but was pursued and taken.

It was likewise deposed of Sir Andrew, that he was a very civil quiet gentleman, never given to quarrel, had an estate of 20000 l. per annum, was the last of all his Family, and which was then extinct by his death. The prisoner had nothing material to say in his defence, but called several persons to his reputation: however, the matter being very plain, the Jury acquitted him of the murder, and of the coroners inquests, but found him guilty on the statute of stabbing, and accordingly he received sentence of death.

The Ordinary gives the following account of him after his condemnation; and says, That from the beginning of his confinement, to his dying hour, he expressed an extreme sorrow not only for this, but all other of his sins; he tells us, that he was put out apprentice to a goldsmith; and, in his younger years, lived a very sober and religious life, was frequent at prayers, hearing sermons, and reading the scriptures, giving himself up to

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the knowledge of God. But having unhappily left this pious course, and abandoned himself to all the sinful pleasures of the world, that then the spirit of religion grew weak in him, and had no such influence upon the actions of his life as before, which became every day more and more irregular. He told the ordinary, that in the midst of his miscarriages, his thoughts were sometimes tending towards God, and that there were some happy intervals in which he had earnestly desired to return to his heavenly father, with full purpose and solemn vows of amendment. But, he said, the world had got so fast hold of him, that he could not get rid of it; so that he broke all those religious vows, as often as he made them, and daily sunk deeper into sin; which, in a small time, brought him to commit that enormous crime, which he then abhorred with the greatest detestation imaginable, not only because he was to die for it, but because he had rendered himself so odious in the sight of God by it. Adding, that the remembrance of his sins was infinitely more bitter and grievous to his spirit, than the vain and empty pleasures of them had even been sweet to his flesh; and that he must confess, from his own sad experience, that had he but known the regrets and torments, which, even in this world, a vicious life brings upon a Man, he could not (though the temptations had been ever so great) have been drawn or allure^d to sin. During the time of his confinement, he shewed great signs of Repentance. His prayers were very fervent, earnestly desiring others to join with him, and that God would be merciful to his poor soul, and give him grace

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to become the greatest penitent, as he judged himself to be the greatest sinner, that ever was. He was executed at Tyburn the 20th of December 1700.

The Trial of JOHN SIMPSON, for House-breaking.

JOHN SIMPSON, born in the county of Essex, was indicted, at the Sessions-house, in the Old Baily, the 25th of July 1698, for felony and burglary, in breaking open the house of Sir Edward Abney, and stealing two silver candlesticks, value forty pounds, besides divers other goods to a considerable value.

Upon examining the evidence, it plainly appeared, that the window of the house was opened, and the goods stolen, which the person who produced them testified in court were brought to her by Holliday, Tho. Chance, and William Eaten. The prisoner said very little in his own defence. The jury acquitted him of the burglary, but found him guilty of the felony: for which he was sentenced to be transported; but soon found means to get to England again, where, following his old practices, he was a second time apprehended; and, on the 4th of July 1700, indicted at the Old Baily, for breaking open the house of Elizabeth Gawden, on the 29th of May, and stealing from thence two feather-beds, bolsters, and one pair of sheets: to which indictment he pleaded guilty, and accordingly received sentence of death. When under condemnation, he gave the Ordinary of Newgate the following account of himself:

That, being weary of committing iniquity, he found himself quite tired of this transitory life, and therefore desired to live no longer. He said he had been, in all probability, as great an offender as perhaps ever was ; he had been guilty of drunkenness, blasphemy, lewdness, robbery, sacrilege and murder, in which he professed himself to have been a compleat master. As for blasphemy, lewdness, and robbery, he told the Ordinary, that he once thought them essential to his employment, as a soldier ; but being now come to himself, was of a different opinion.

He acknowledged to have been guilty of more robberies than he could mention, having both broke open houses, and robbed on the highway ; and particularly that he, with three others, did rob a gentleman a little behind Tyburn on Easter Eve, of five guineas. He said, that frequently, he had robbed officers tents when he was a soldier in Flanders, and also king William's tent, from whence he took about 1000l. and that he had committed so many other robberies, both in Flanders and England, as to have acquired the name of Captain of the robbers in both countries, and particularly in Flanders, where he affirmed, that the gates of the city of Ghent had been twice shut up in a fortnight's time, with an intent to have found him out ; and, after they had apprehended him, irons were put about his arms, neck, back, and legs ; in which condition he was carried about for a show. And as to sacrilege, he confessed it was his frequent custom to strip the Roman Catholics, as they went to mass at five o'clock in the morning : that he and two more, with drawn swords, had even robbed them at the very altar ; and when the mob has been raised

raised upon them, have run laughing about the streets and defied them. That once in particular, he robbed St. Peter's church, in the city of Ghent, of plate to the value of 1200l. although that place had been an asylum for him at a time when he had been condemned for a murder. The circumstances of which, he said, were as follow: That he, having killed a man, was condemned for it; but had found means to break out of prison, and fled to the church beforementioned, where, in four days time, the priests procured him a pardon. A short time after, being come acquainted with all the avenues of the church, and places where the plate was deposited, he stole it and got away, but was afterwards took up, on suspicion; and, for want of sufficient proofs, was acquitted.

With regard to murder, he owned the killing four or five men in quarrels, but never any in all the robberies he had been concerned in. He also added, that he was one of those who, the Christmas before, broke out of Newgate, having been cast on two indictments for felony, and that his right name was John Holiday.

The Ordinary, suspecting his relation to be most of it romance, said to him, he supposed he told those things in hopes hereafter to be talked of. To which he replied, that what he had confessed was really fact. He owned, that formerly he used to make his boast of these things, but, within these last six weeks, he was so far from doing any thing of that kind, that he had been ever since overwhelmed with shame and confusion for his villainies. The ordinary told him, that he could not help wondering, that as he was one of the children of this world, he had not

exerted so much wisdom as to take up while he was well, having several times, by his own confession, got so many different quantities of money. To this he answered, that whatsoever he had got together by such unlawful and wicked means, he never had power to make a right use of. The Ordinary then told him, if his repentance was sincere, he ought to discover his accomplices; that they, knowing they were discovered, might make a virtue of necessity, and abandon the wicked courses of their lives. But to this proposal he made some scruples, saying, he neither thought it just or equitable to betray his friends and acquaintances. Yet, when, he was informed, that it was not to betray them, but for their true interest, and the good of his own soul, he discovered several, both men and women, whom he exhorted to become wise in time. The Ordinary told him, that, in justice to the public, he ought to discover also if he knew any particular or uncommon ways, which thieves used to rob houses, by which means honest people might guard against them. As to that particular, said he, by which thieves get into houses, it is by standing upon one anothers shoulders, to the number of three, the uppermost scrambling up the wall till he comes to the window, gets into the chamber, strikes a light, and makes up his bundle, which done, he throws out to his accomplices; that about supper-time was generally thought the best, as then the servants were giving their attendance.

The ordinary further adds, that he seemed very penitent, heartily wishing he had been wise and sober in time himself, yet did not seem to wish for life, being very well contented with his confinement;

confinement; and at the place of execution he said he was very willing to die; declaring, that death was more acceptable to him than if he was to obtain a reprieve; for if he was permitted to venture into the world again, in all probability he might fall into some disorders which might undo him for ever; whereas, in dying now, he had some hopes of obtaining remission for all his enormous crimes.

He was executed the 20th of July 1700, at Tyburn, in the 40th year of his age, in company with George Goffe, condemned for felony and burglary, and Jonathan Lane, for robbing esquire Harcourt on the highway.

*The Trials, &c. of Michael Van Berghen,
Katherine Van Berghen, and Gerrard
Dromelius, for the Murder of Oliver
Norris.*

ON the 24th of June 1700, were indicted, at the Sessions House, in the Old Baily, Michael Van Berghen, Katherine Van Berghen, and Gerrard Dromelius, for the murder and robbery of Oliver Norris.

The first evidence sworn was a neighbour, who deposed, that the morning after Mr. Norris was murdered, he, having occasion to go to a ditch that runs out of the Thames into Saint Katherine's, by the back part of his house, looking at the water, perceived the toe of a boot above the surface; upon which, he got a pole with a hook at the end of it, took hold of it, and raising it a little higher, perceived, above the

upper part of the boot, a scarlet stocking, and afterwards found it to be a man's body; upon which he immediately got assistance to take it out of the ditch: this done, they found that he had been murdered, his throat being cut in a most barbarous manner, and his coat and waistcoat taken off. Other Neighbours said, that when they heard of the body's being found, they went to see it, and viewing the ground all about to see if they could find, by any signs of blood, &c. where the murder had been committed, found none; but remembered that, being up early that morning, they had seen, about two or three o'clock, Michael Van Berghen and Gerrard Dromelius coming from that part of the common shore, and had observed a light carried from place to place in Van Berghen's house. Other evidences depos'd, that the night before they heard a great noise in Van Berghen's house; upon which, having some suspicion, they got an officer, and searched the house, but could find no symptoms of the murder, except a little blood behind one of the doors, the room seeming to have been lately moped; they then asked what was become of Gerrard Dromelius? but could get no satisfactory account of him, but that he was gone. Upon which they secured Michael Van Berghen, his wife, and the servant maid; and being informed by a waterman, that he had carried Gerrard Dromelius over the water not long before with a hamper to Rotherhithe, they sent persons in quest of him, who were not long before they found the place where he had taken shelter; and, on searching his lodgings, they found a hamper, and in it a hat, periuke, coat, waistcoat, &c. which were proved to be Mr. Norris's, in a very

very bloody condition. Van Berghen's servant maid likewise deposed, that Mr. Norris, being in liquor, about eight o'clock the night before, came into her master's house, where he drank wine, and, staying there till about eleven, was for going home; but being very solicitous to have a coach, her mistress at length sent her for one, at the same time whispering to her not to bring any, but when she returned back to say she could not get one, which she did. Mr. Norris then insisted upon going without one, for which purpose he went out of doors, but soon returning again, he went to her mistress, saying, he had lost his money there, and he would have satisfaction, talking very loud and in a very angry manner; so that it gave occasion to several persons that were passing by the door to take notice; whereupon her mistress desired him to walk into the room, telling him, he should have satisfaction. After this, her master, mistress and the drawer, being with him, and high words passing, her mistress bid her to go to bed, which she did accordingly; and when she was there, she heard a bustling below stairs, but knew not what was the matter. After she had been in bed some time her mistress came into her room with a candle, and fetched a hamper; she would have gotten up, but she was desired by her mistress to lie still, which she did. She rose early in the morning, before the rest of the family, and found the room, in which she had left Mr. Norris, her master, mistress, and Gerrard Dromelius, had been newly washed, (which her mistress had never been used to do herself,) who set her with a pail and mop to wash a bench at the door, on which she saw some blood. This evidence affirmed,

ed, that she enquired what was become of Mr. Norris, but her mistress, instead of telling her, bid her hold her tongue, and say nothing of him, for their lives were all in her power; and that she also enquired for Dromelius, but was answered, he was gone.

All the prisoners denied the fact, alledging, in their defence, that Mr. Norris went away from their house by eleven o'clock, and that they knew nothing at all of what afterwards became of him; but the jury having heard the evidence, and considered the whole matter, found them all three guilty of wilful murder, and accordingly they received sentence of death. For some time after their condemnation they persisted in denying the fact; till, at length, through the ordinary's unwearied diligence, who gave them almost constant attendance, were brought to the following confession.

Gerrard Dromelius, who was a servant in the quality of a drawer to Van Berghen, when all his hopes of a reprieve were vanished, owned that he had committed the murder, taking the commission of the fact wholly upon himself, saying, that Mr. Norris, being resolutely bent to go to an Inn where he lodged near Aldgate, his master ordered him to conduct him to the same, he being full of liquor: that they were no sooner out of the doors than Mr. Norris took an opportunity to ease himself in an adjacent broken building; and that whilst they were there he gave him very angry words, and attempted to draw his sword upon him; upon which he closed with him, wrested the sword out of his hand, and gave him several stabs with it; that while the gentleman was in this condition, and groaning for life,

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he heard a watchman coming along, and dreading the discovery, he drew his knife and cut his throat, in order to put an end to his groans, and his own fears. The ordinary told him, that his account of the matter was improbable, as it was a very rainy night when the murder was committed, and if they had tumbled down together, as he said they had, their cloaths would have been dirty, and there would have been blood seen had the gentleman been murdered near the place where the body was found, and that there would have been holes in the gentleman's cloaths, had those wounds been given him while his cloaths were on, whereas, on the contrary, there were none to be seen. To this he replied, that there might be holes in the cloaths, and they might be dirty, though not observed, adding, that there was a great quantity of blood near the place where the body was found, though none was seen, and that there would have been more had he not tore the gentleman's shirt, and put it into the bleeding wounds. But these assertions were contrary to what was sworn upon his trial; yet, notwithstanding this, he insisted upon it, that he committed the murder with his own hands, and that both his master and mistress were wholly ignorant of the matter. The ordinary told him, that there appeared in him an obstinacy peculiar to himself, for him to affirm that this murder was done by his own hands; which, according to circumstances, was hardly probable to be done without two or three assistants. Asking him what he could propose to himself from such a humour, as it could be of no use either to his master or mistress, since the evidences had so fully proved,

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34 Trial of MICHAEL VAN BERGHEN,

proved, by their attestations, that they were identically concerned therein, and for which they were to die ; telling him, that certainly if there was a hotter place in hell for one more than another, it must be for such a person as himself, being guilty of so flagrant an impiety, who durst not absolutely deny his accomplices, and the truth of the fact ; intimating to him, that perhaps the familiarity that there appeared to have been between him and his mistress might have some influence upon him, since he knew he must die for it himself to save her ; but, in denying the truth, he ventured his own damnation upon it. The discourse had this effect upon him ; that it brought tears from his eyes, and groans from his heart, but no alteration in his story. He acknowledged his intimate familiarity with his mistress, and seemed to bewail it, wishing he had a longer time to consider. The ordinary taxed him likewise with his villainous treatment of the deceased, in that he did not only murder him, but also wound him in his reputation, in giving it out that the gentleman would have committed sodomy with him, which was the only cause he fought and slew him. This, however, he declared publickly was no such thing, being only a contrivance in him to make his guilt appear less odious.

Being brought to the place of execution, his master and mistress seemed to behave with some decency, praying to God, and desiring the prayers of their own country ministers, and others that were attendant on them : but Gerrard Dromelius being again asked about the committing of the murder, would give no other account than what he before had given ; only desiring the people to

to take example by him, and to avoid all uncleanness, and all wicked practices, especially violent passion, which, he said, had brought him to that untimely end.

Michael Van Berghen could not express himself intelligibly in English, but did in Latin. He absolutely denied that the murder was committed in his house, or that he knew any thing of it; though the Ordinary put him in mind it had been sworn at his trial, that he and Dromelius were seen to come from the common shore, where the dead body lay, between two and three o'clock that morning, yet he persisted in denying it; and could only be brought to own, that Dromelius informed him, as he lay in his bed, immediately after the fact was committed, that he had wounded the gentleman, and desired him to assist in making his escape, upon such a supposition; but that when he came to understand that he was really murdered, he confidently affirmed, that he then gave money to pursue the murderer, in order to have him brought to justice and made an example of, by paying blood for blood. But this, like the rest of his and Dromelius's narrations, seemed to be false; for, if he had done as he asserted he had, it would have been of great advantage to him, and, in all probability, saved his life, by producing such persons on his trial. The Ordinary spared no pains in persuading him to be ingenuous and open in confessing his guilt, which had no other effect upon him than throwing him into a passion; and, with disdain, he replied, would he have him to confess more than he knew? and expressed great uneasiness at the dispensation he was under. In this humour he persisted,

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persisted, nor would he acknowledge any thing further.

His wife was also in the same story, protesting, with all the solemnity imaginable, that the murder was not committed in their house, nor did she know any thing of it, till some time after it was done. She likewise confessed, that Dromelius came up stairs into the room where they lay, and declared that he had murdered the gentleman; upon which she ran for the hamper to put the bloody cloaths in, and to help the drawer in his escape, in which she had done no more than what was customary in Holland. When she was brought to the place of execution she seemed to be greatly concerned for her reputation; but persisted in declaring that she knew nothing more relative to the fact.

They were executed near the Hartshorn Brew-house in East Smithfield, being the nearest proper place to where the murder was committed: the two men were hanged in chains between Mile End and Bow, but the woman was buried soon after her execution.

*The Trial of RICHARD MORRIS, &c. for
House-breaking.*

ON the 15th of June 1701, were indicted, at the Sessions-house in the Old Baily, Richard Morris, Benjamin Jones, and Francis Turnley, for breaking open the house of lady Sannah Carew, in the night time, with an intent to steal her goods.

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The footman deposed, that about two or three o'clock in the morning, he was assaulted in his bed by three men, who had broke in at the window, and had with them a lighted candle, their faces blacked, pistols in their hands and case-knives; they struggled with him for some time, and then put something into his mouth with an intent to stop his breath: they likewise endeavoured to break his neck; but, in the scuffle, he put out their candle: they then got a napkin, which they put about his neck, and dragged him about the room, but he struggling with them, at length called out Thieves, which the watch hearing, came to the house; whereupon they ran away from him: and that Morris, in attempting to get out of the window, was knocked down, and apprehended by the watch, having left his shoes and coat in the house. Jones and Turnley were found in a vault underground, in which were several wizards, a dark lanthorn, gags, chissels, cords, and such other implements.

Richard Morris, in his defence, pleaded, that he had been prevailed upon, by one George Hare, a footman in the house, who made him wish that he might never see the face of God if he divulged it; upon which he promised to keep his secret: Hare then told him, that there was to the amount of 3000l. in the house; whereupon they fixed a time for committing the robbery, telling him, he had sawed a bar out of the window, and said, that he should be with him. They drank a bottle of wine and some Derby ale together, which done, they pulled off their shoes, and walked all over the house, shewing him the lady's chamber, and the window where he had placed the clay upon the barr, which being touched, would fall down; af-

ter this, they had a meeting at the Goat Tavern near Bloomsbury, where Wagstaff, Hodges and his brother Hare were present; Morris said, that at this meeting he told him, there were too many to be concerned in it, but he answered, that he was a trusty friend and would never betray him; then they made another appointment, to meet at the Cock and Hoop in Fetter Lane, where Hare was to bring Wagstaff and Hodges to them. Jones and Turnley owned that they met Morris at the Sun in the Wood, who told them, that with a proviso they would go with him to such a place, the butler would give them a bottle of wine. Upon which they went into the kitchen, and were no farther when the watchman took them. They all denied the burglary, but the footman asserted, that he was positive the glass was up when he went to bed, but was down when the watchman came into the house. The Jury, after some consideration on the merits of the evidence, found Morris, Jones and Turnley guilty; but there not appearing to be proofs enough against Wagstaff and Hodges, they were acquitted.

After their condemnation, they gave the Ordinary this account of themselves.

Richard Morris said, he was then about forty-five years of age, born in Worcestershire, by trade a butcher, and had kept the Red Lyon Inn in Worcester. He owned himself guilty of the fact, and that he was justly condemned for it: he did not seem to be unwilling to die, assuring himself, that his peace with God was made, notwithstanding his friends were endeavouring to get a reprieve for him; but when he found that he certainly was to be executed, and that there was

was no mercy to be found from men, he set himself more heartily about endeavouring to obtain it from God. He owned himself to have been a very great sinner, having committed all manner of offences against both divine and human laws, murder only excepted. He said that he had repented of all his sins, and hoped his repentance was sincere.

Benjamin Jones said, that he was about thirty-four years of age, born at Abberley in Worcestershire, by trade a baker, but, for about three years, had kept a victualling-house in London; and leaving both that and his employment, he fell to starch-making, and then into ill company, which brought him to be lewd and vicious. He acknowledged the facts for which he was to die, and solemnly averred, that Morris had drawn him into it. He begged pardon of God and man, and appeared to be really penitent.

Francis Turnley said, he was about twenty-eight years of age, born at Mamble, near Bewdley, in Worcestershire, was a labouring man, and had served bricklayers and brewers both in town and country. He confessed the fact, but said, that Morris, with whom he had lived as a servant, had drawn him into it. He acknowledged, that once before he was under sentence of death, and had obtained a reprieve, but had not improved it, which, he said, was now a great grief to him. He begged pardon of God and man.

When they arrived at the place of execution, the Ordinary persuaded Morris to ask pardon of Jones and Turnley, for having drawn them into the commission of such enormous facts; but he refused to do it, absolutely denying that he had

40 *Trial of HARMAN STRODTMAN,*

used any ways or means to persuade either the one or the other more than what they had voluntarily taken upon themselves. Notwithstanding the Ordinary said he had before acknowledged it to him. Jones and Turnley also persisted in it that he had; upon which there was some passion raised between them; yet before the cart drew away, he did tacitly acknowledge it, and they declared that they forgave one another. Morris, after kissing them, desired to have the two last verses of the 39th psalm repeated; and then confessed his crimes to the spectators, desiring that all of them would take warning by him and his fellow-sufferers, and pray for him. After prayers were ended, and the cart just ready to draw away, Morris said, he could not die quietly, unless he declared his religion had taught him loyalty, ending his speech by praying God to bless Queen Mary and the Prince of Wales.

They were executed at Tyburn the 28th of June 1701, with William Tight, condemned for a burglary, and Christian Russel, for the murder of her bastard child.

Trial of HARMAN STRODTMAN, for Murder and Robbery.

HARMAN STRODTMAN was indicted at the Old Bailey on three different indictments. The first was, for the murder of Peter Wolters his fellow-servant, the 27th of April 1701. The second, for breaking the house of Messieurs Stein and Dorien, and stealing a watch and several other things, the property

erty of the said Peter Walter. And the third was, for stealing divers goods, the property of Herman Frederick Dorien, on the day before mentioned.

The evidences, in their depositions, asserted, that the prisoner, having been, about three days before the fact was committed, discharged the service of Messieurs Stein and Dorien, for some misdemeanors, took a lodging at the Sun ale-house in Queen-street, telling the master of the house that his father was a merchant in Saxony, that he came to England to learn the English tongue, and was to go from thence to the West Indies, saying, that his cloaths were to come that night by the carrier: about eight o'clock he told the landlord, he was going to drink with some of his countrymen, and in all probability it would be late before he came home; but if he should stay out after eleven o'clock, they might go to bed and not expect him; which they did, he not coming by that time. But about five or six o'clock the next morning, being Sunday, he came home, and brought a bundle, which he said were his cloaths that he had fetched from the carriers; and carrying them up stairs, locked himself in the room: these cloaths were deposited to be the deceased's.

Mr. Stein deposed, that the prisoner came to take away his cloaths on the Saturday; but he, not being at leisure to inspect into his trunk, told him, he must come another time: Upon which the prisoner (as he thought) went away. But the next morning between four and five o'clock, the maid came to him, and informed him, that there was a smoak in the house, and that she suspected some part of it was on fire:

Upon which he, searching, perceived that the smoak came through the chinks of the deceased's chamber door, he immediately went in, sending the maid for a pail of water at the same time; and on entering the room saw the chest of drawers on fire, and threw the water on it in order to quench it, which he soon did: the maid then repaired to the deceased's bed, in order to wake him, supposing him to be asleep; but, on shaking him, found that he was dead, though warm; upon which they immediately sent for a surgeon to bleed him. When the surgeon came he could not make the deceased bleed; but on taking off his night-cap, they found a bruise on the left side his head near the eye; the skin not being broke, the surgeon made an incision, and found a great fracture, the skull being broken in three pieces. That then searching the chest of drawers, he saw the deceased's watch, cloaths, &c. were gone. Upon which he began to suspect the prisoner's being concerned in the affair, and was resolved to have him apprehended, which was effected the next day in Lombard Street, going to receive money upon a bill that they found in his pocket, which was proved to be in the custody of the deceased on the Saturday night before the fact was committed; and they found also several pick-lock keys about him.

When he was first apprehended, he would not confess the fact, till such time as they carried him before Sir Humphry Edwin, when he confessed it, and where the goods and several other bills were, which they found at his lodgings according to his direction. He owned that he got into the house by night, staid in an empty room till one o'clock, then entered the deceased's chamber, and being

being busy in stealing the things, heard the deceased stir; whereupon he took up a cane, and gave him the wound of which he died, and afterwards set fire to the chest of drawers with an intent to burn the house, making his escape out at a window into an empty house with the goods, where he staid till the next morning, because he could not get out of Austin Friars, the gates of the place being kept locked till such time as the watchmen went off in the morning. However, when upon his trial, he denied the fact, as well as the abovementioned confession, saying, that he made it upon the promise of Mr. Stein, who told him that he should not stay an hour in England, for he would send him to sea, which induced him to take it upon himself rather than make a long defence. He pleaded at the bar, that he went to Camberwell, and from thence to the Red House at Deptford, where he was met by a press-gang, who pressed him; but he speaking nothing but Dutch to them, they let him go: after this, he said that he went to an alehouse, where, falling in company with a man called John the Painter, he told him that he was come away from his master, who had stopped his clothes, and desired him to go along with him to fetch them, which he did; and getting privately into the house, they staid till one o'clock, and then went into the deceased's chamber, and that John the Painter struck the deceased with a piece of wood; whereupon he told him he had done a very ill thing, and he would not be concerned any farther; and that the said John the Painter took the goods, and set fire to the house, and they went away together; and coming to his landlord's door, he knocked, and the other gave

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44 Trial of HARMAN STRODTMAN,

the goods to him. But this story not appearing at all probable, the jury found him guilty, and he received sentence of death accordingly.

After this he began to reflect on the heinousness of his crimes; and when the Ordinary acquainted him that the dead warrant was come, and that he had but a few days to live, he replied, "The Lord's will be done, I am willing to die, only I beg of God, that I may not (as I deserve) die an eternal death, and though I die here for my most heinous and enormous crimes, yet I may, for the love of Christ, live eternally with him in Heaven;" adding, "God bless the king, and all my honourable judges, they have done me no wrong; but 'tis I have done great wrong. The Lord be merciful to me, a great sinner, else I perish." Sometimes he was ready to despair of his salvation, fearing that his repentance was not great enough; but then again would feel that comfort in his mind, as to hope that he was really made "sorry after a godly manner, that this godly sorrow would work in him repentance to salvation, not to be repented of." In this frame of spirit he continued during his confinement, and in his way to the place of execution, where he was observed to keep his hands lift up for some considerable time after the cart was drawn away. He delivered the Ordinary a paper containing his confession as follows.

In the year 1682, or a little before, I was born at Revel in Lifland, and had the happiness to come of a good family; my parents being of some account in the world, and also a godly and religious people, who took great care of my education.

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About the year 1694, my father sent me to school to Lubeck, where I continued till Michaelmas 1698. From thence I went to Hamburg, and staid there till I set out for England. I arrived at London in March following, and (together with one Peter Wolters who came with me to England) was bound apprentice to Mr. Stein and Mr. Dorien, merchants, and partners in London. Peter Wolters and myself, having been fellow-travellers, and being now fellow-prentices, we lived for some time very friendly and lovingly together, till about August last, when his sister was married to one of our masters, Mr. Dorien. Then he began to be so proud, and so very domineering over me, and abusive to me, that I could not bear it. We had several fallings-out, and he did twice beat me, once before the maids in the kitchen, and at another time in the compting-house ; and often complained, and told tales of me to my masters, thereby creating me their ill-will ; so that they kept me close at home, and would not give me the same liberty, which my fellow-prentice and myself before had, of sometimes going abroad for recreation. Upon this account I conceived an implacable hatred against him, and the devil put it into my heart to be revenged of him at any rate. First I designed to do it by poison, having to that purpose, mixed some mercury with a certain white powder which he had always in a glass in his chamber, and of which he used to take a dose very often for the scurvy : but it being then winter-time (I think the latter end of December, or beginning of January) I found he had left off taking his powder ; and so I might wait long enough before I could see the effects of

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my poison if I staid till he took that powder again. Therefore I thought of another way to dispatch him, and this was by stabbing him. And as I was, or thought myself daily abused by him, so my hatred and spirit of revenge grew hotter against him every day ; insomuch that now I came to be apprehensive, that if I continued longer in the house, I could not forbear doing him open mischief, and laying violent hands upon him. Whereupon I desired one of the maids to beg of my masters to send me to the West Indies ; but they resolving nothing in the matter, and I being in haste about it, shewed myself very uneasy under this uncertainty ; and my anger against my fellow-prentice did so increase, that the Dutch maid took notice of it to me, and gave me very good advice to be meek, patient, and dutiful, which would have been very happy for me if I had taken. But I was under too great temptation to be in any condition of good admonition from friends. The great enemy of my soul was now very busy about me, and would not let me rest till I had executed this damnable design he had put me upon : on Good-Friday morning, my master sending me of an errand, I took from thence opportunity of going to Greenwich, with a design to return home on Saturday ; but being now unwilling to kill my fellow-apprentice before he had received the sacrament, which he was to do on Easter day, I went to Greenwich, and on the Saturday sent a letter to my masters telling them (what the father of lies had dictated to me) that I was pressed, and was to go to Chatham, and there to be put on board one of the king's ships on Easter Monday. Being still at Greenwich, I was met there by a young man, who

who knew me, and at his return to London told my masters, that he thought I was not pressed as I pretended. Upon which my master Stein went down to Chatham, to know certainly whether it was so or no, but could not find that any such young man as myself had of late been pressed there, or brought thither.

On Easter day I went to church at Greenwich, both morning and afternoon; but the Lord forgive me, my heart was then very far from being intent on what was good. Towards the evening I came to town, and lay that night at the Dolphin inn without Bishopsgate; and the next morning returned to Greenwich, and was there, and at Woolwich, up and down thereabouts, till the next Tuesday, when I came to town, and lay in Lombard-street, and on Wednesday morning went down again to Greenwich. On Thursday evening I came to town again, and returned to Greenwich no more. Upon this, I went to my masters, and told them by word of mouth, what I had writ to them before, namely, that I was pressed. They said, they could not believe it; for they had made an enquiry into that matter upon the place, and found no such thing; and were so angry with me, that they bid me be gone. Upon which I went away, and took lodgings in Moorfields, and lay there that night and on Friday night; and on Saturday I took other Lodgings at the sign of the Sun, an ale-house in Queen-street, London. Now I had a key of the fore-door of my master's house, which I got made for me a long time before Christmas, by that which was my masters, that I might (unknown to them) go in and out when I pleased; intending at first no other use of it, but

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but to have the liberty of taking my pleasure abroad oftner than they would allow. But the devil at laist taught me another use of this key. For by the help of it, I came to my master's house on Saturday in Easter week, about half an hour past eight at night; and being got in, I first hid myself behind the entry door, upon my hearing a noise of somebody going up stairs. When this was over, as I supposed the way was clear, I went up one pair of stairs first; and entering the room where I used to lie, next to the compting house, I went to a tinder-box, struck fire, and lighted a candle. Then I took my masters dark lanthern that was there also, and went up another pair of stairs, and having got into an empty room, adjoining to Peter Wolters chamber, I shut myself in there, where I was no sooner placed but I heard a noise, as if somebody was coming up. Upon which I put out my candle, and some time after fell asleep. About 12 o'clock being awake, and supposing that by this time Peter Wolters and the rest of the family were a-bed and fast asleep, after I had been some time hearkening, and perceived all was very quiet in the house, I went down again to my room one pair of stairs, where the tinder-box lay; and having lighted a candle a second time, entered the compting-house, and there took out several notes and bills, and some money; I then went up again two pair of stairs first, carrying with me a certain piece of wood where with they used to beat tobacco, which I found in my chamber. When I was got up stairs, I sprung into Peter Wolters chamber, and coming to his bed-side, opened the curtains, and, with my tobacco-beater, knocked him on the head, giving

giving four or five blows on the left side of it, and another on the right. When I had given him the first blow, then my heart failed me; yet being afraid to be discovered by the noise he made with groaning, I followed close the first blow with three or four others, and then had not courage enough to give him any more. Therefore to stop his groans, I took his pillow, and laying it on his mouth, pressed it hard with my elbow, as I sat on the side of his bed; and by this means stopt his breath, and stifled him. And thus it was I most barbarously murdered this poor creature, whom I intended (had this failed) to have shot to death, having brought with me two pistols ready charged for that wicked purpose. "The Lord forgive me this sin!" When I perceived that he was quite dead, I proceeded to search his breeches and chest of drawers, and took a note of 20l. with some money, out of his pocket, which (with that I had taken out of the compting-house) amounting to 8, or 9l. Then I packed up some of his linen and woollen cloaths, and having made a bundle of them, went down with it one pair of stairs, and threw it out of the window, into an uninhabited house.

Then I went up stairs again, and having cut my candle in two (both pieces being lighted) I set one in the chest of drawers, and the other on a chair close by the bed-curtains, intending to have burnt the house, in order to conceal by this heinous fact, the other two of theft and murder, which I had now most barbarously committed. Then I went through a window into the house where I had flung my bundle, and staying there till about five in the morning, I went away with

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that bundle to my lodgings in Queen-street, where I put on clean cloaths, and then went to the Sweeds church in Trinity-lane. There I heard the bill of thanks read which my masters had put up for their own and their neighbours preservation; at which my heart sunk down, and I had great check of conscience, and could not forbear shedding tears, which I hid (all I could) from an acquaintance of my masters, who was in the same pew with me, and told me that my masters house had like to have been burnt the last night, it being set on fire by an accident yet unknown; but the mischief which it might have done, through God's mercy, was happily prevented by the Dutch maid, who first smelt the fire, and saw the smoak, and thereupon called her master, and fetched a pail of water, by which means it was presently put out.

This he told me as we came out of church, and at parting we appointed to meet again at two o'clock upon the out-walks of the Royal Exchange, in order to go together to the Dutch church in the Savoy. I went to the Exchange accordingly, and waited a while, but he not coming I went alone to Stepney church. After church I walked in the fields towards Mile-end, where I saw at a distance, two Dutchmen that were hanged in chains. Then I was struck with some remorse and fears, and said to myself, "Thou may'st come to be one of them, and be made a like spectacle to the world." As I went on I came to Blackwall, and there saw another person (a Captain of a French pirate,) hanged in chains in that place. Then the same thoughts again returned upon me, viz. that it may come to my lot to have such a shameful end.

end. Thus providence having led me to those dismal and ghastly objects, I came back to my lodging with heavy thoughts, but not at all awakened to repentance ; for I was in a spiritual slumber ; still under the power and dominion of the devil, so as my heart did not relent at what I had done ; but on the contrary, that if I had failed of murdering my fellow-[']prentice in his bed, I would have destroyed him some other way ; and particularly designed to have pistoled him, as he was going for his masters letters to the post-house, or at his going back from thence, as I had also once laid in wait under the arch in Austin-friars to have done it, if he had come out at that time. Being come back from my distracted walks to my lodgings at the Sun ale-house. I supped and went to bed, after I had said my prayers ; but, God knows, I was then in a very unfit condition to pray : but the Lord has been infinitely gracious and merciful to me, in giving me a heart, as well as a mouth to pray ; for which his glorious name be eternally praised.

The next day, being the second Monday after Easter, I went in the morning to the White Horse-inn without Cripplegate, to receive money upon one of those bills I had stolen out of my masters house, namely, the 20l. bill ; but the man who should have paid it, being gone out, I was desired to come again about twelve, which I did : in the mean time, I went to a Goldsmith that I knew in Lombard-street, who would have sent me that morning with some money to his sister, who was at boarding-school at Greenwich ; but I told him I could not go before the next day, and then I would. Before I came away from him he told me, that a young man

man (one Green) had been there enquiring after me. Upon which I desired him to tell that young man if he came again, that I would come back to look for him there about one. Then I hastened to the White-horse again, and found the party, but he told me he had no orders to pay the money upon that bill. With this answer I returned to my lodgings, and when I had dined, I went again to the Goldsmith's in Lombard-street, where I found my master Stein with another gentleman, and my countryman Green. My master asked me whether I would go willingly to his house, or be carried thither by two porters; I said I would go. So after some questions about the horrid facts I had committed at his house, and my denying of them, I was searched, and the bill of 20l. which was in the deceased's pocket, was found upon me. Then he asked me where I lay; I told him in Moor-fields; we went there to my former lodgings; but the people of the house told him I did not lie there now.

By this my master finding I was unwilling to let him know where I had lain, or how I had disposed of those things which I had stolen out of his house, promised me, if I would confess, no harm should come to me; for he would take care to send me presently beyond sea. Upon this I freely told him all the truth; where I lay, and where those goods of his were. He soon after took coach, and carried me to my lodgings in Queen-street, where he received the bills, cloaths, money, and all that I had thus stolen, and then carried me to Sir Humphry Edwin, who, upon his examination of me, and my own confession of all those facts, did (most justly, I must acknowledge

knowledge it, and the providence of God in it) commit me to Newgate. This only I will say, that had I been tried the first sessions after my being there, I would have pleaded guilty, as I was advised to do by the Minister of Newgate, and others my spiritual teachers and good people. But I was taught, by some persons in Newgate, to deny all upon my trial, they framing for me, and industriously teaching me, the story of John the Painter, and all that stuff, which I then alledged at the bar for my defence: all which I now confess to be utterly false in every part of it, I not knowing any such person as John the Painter in the world; and none being privy to, or aiding me in those hellish crimes of mine, but the devil who had put me upon them. And this I do not only confess with sincerity, but heartily repent of, and with the greatest sorrow and humility beg God's pardon for my having endeavoured with presumptuous lies, to conceal what God would have brought to light, and openly punish me for in this world, that I might (I hope) avoid eternal punishment in the next. I therefore give him the greatest thanks I am capable of, for the time and opportunity, and grace he has given me to repent, and to be reconciled to him, through the blood of my Saviour Jesus Christ: and I earnestly pray him to bless all those who have been instrumental to my apprehension and condemnation, as well as of my conversion: to bless the King with a long life, and prosperous reign upon earth, and to give him at last the immortal crown of glory: to bless all my Judges, whose justice to me I again acknowledge, and my unjust denial to them, of the facts I stood charged with before them, I humbly

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humbly ask their pardon for. And I pray God in my heart, to remember his mercy to my poor father (if yet alive) and my sisters and brothers, with all the rest of my friends and relations ; to bless and prosper my masters and their family ; to pardon all my enemies (if I have any) and pour down his blessings upon all good people of God ; upon his church, these nations and the whole world ; and to have infinite mercy upon my sinful soul.

This I implore on the bended knees of my heart, overwhelmed with grief, and bathed in tears of a sincere repentance ; acknowledging that if God was no more merciful to me than I was to that poor creature whom I barbarously murdered, I should be undone to all eternity. But he is infinitely good and gracious, who will not suffer my soul to perish. Therefore I will magnify him as long as I live ; and within a few hours, sing with the blessed Saints above, the joyful song of deliverance and of praise, and hallelujah to him my heavenly Father, and to my dear Redeemer, for evermore. Amen and Amen.

Newgate,
June 17, 1701.

HARMAN STRODTMAN.

An Account of Capt. WILLIAM KIDD, his Piracies, Trial, and Execution.

AT a sessions of admiralty held at the Old Bailey, May 8, 1701, Capt. William Kidd, with several others, was tried for piracy committed

minated on the High Seas, and being thereof lawfully convicted, received sentence of death.

Capt. Kidd (though his affair made a great noise in the world at the time while it was in agitation) was a very insignificant fellow, of an obscure birth, mean parts, and in his person made a very indifferent appearance, looking rather like a butcher than a seaman ; and his manners were brutal to an uncommon degree. He had spent the best part of his life at sea, and several years at New York, where he became master of a little vessel, in which he traded with the pirates, got into a thorough acquaintance with their haunts, and could give a good account of them. He did not want courage, nor at the same time did he abound in it. He was well enough pleased to make money by the pirates, and would have been as well pleased if he could have made money by hanging them.

When he was among those people, he talked and lived as profligately as they did ; but at other times he pretended to honesty, and gave out that it would be a very easy matter to destroy all this wicked crew, and to prevent their growing up again. This occasioned his being taken notice of by some eminent planters, who conceived a better opinion of him than he deserved, which procured him the countenance he afterwards met with ; but his foolish and vicious behaviour drew a great deal of trouble upon those who honoured him with their protection, as well as infamous death on himself. But before we enter into these particulars, it will be requisite to shew the situation of things when he first appeared on the public stage.

There

There had been, for many years, very loud and just complaints of piracies in the West Indies, which, for the sake of the profit made by purchasing their ill-gotten goods, had met with too much encouragement from the inhabitants of our plantations. This induced king William, in the year 1695, to declare the earl of Bellamont, a nobleman of Ireland, and a person of great worth and honour, governor of New York, and of New England, believing him to be a proper person to restrain such mischiefs, and, in time, he put an end to the complaints made about them. After he was raised to this station, and before he set out for his government, he began to enquire into the most proper methods for extinguishing these abuses, and represented it to one Col. Levington, a gentleman of considerable property in New York, as a thing which nearly concerned the honour of that plantation. This induced the colonel to mention to his lordship one captain Kidd, who was then lately arrived from New York, in a sloop of his own, as a brave, bold fellow, who knew most of the pyrates haunts, and might therefore be employed against them with great probability of success. The earl readily approved of the scheme, and knowing how much the king had the business at heart, mentioned it to his Majesty, who applauded his design, and recommended it to the board of admiralty: but the public affairs being then in a perplexed situation, and great difficulties found in manning the fleet, the board, tho' they signified their approbation of the thing, thought fit to lay it aside.

Col. Levington having exact information of all that had passed, applied himself a second time

to the earl of Bellamont, and offered an amendment to his first project. He observed, that this was a thing that would admit of no delay; and since the public could not immediately undertake the intended expedition, it might not be amiss, if some persons of distinction should venture to carry it into execution at their own expence. This, too, was attended with much difficulty; but at last it was agreed, that the lord chancellor (then lord Somers) the duke of Shrewsbury, the earl of Romney, the earl of Oxford, and some other persons, together with col. Levingston and Kidd, who were to have between them a fifth of the whole undertaking, should raise 6000l. for the expence of the voyage. The king was so well pleased with the thing, and thought it of so much benefit to the publick, that he promised to contribute to it; and therefore a tenth part of the goods taken from pirates was reserved to his Majesty, in the grant made; the rest to the persons engaged in fitting out Kidd. But when the busines was brought to bear, the king could not advance the money conveniently, by which means the persons abovementioned were obliged to be at the whole expence. Capt. Kidd had a commission in the common form to take and seize pirates, and bring them to justice, without any special clause or proviso whatever. He knew none of the adventurers but lord Bellamont, who introduced him to the earl of Oxford, and another person carried him to the earl of Romney. As for the rest, he never saw them. And so little of secrecy or management was there in this busines, that he had no instructions, either public or private, only the earl of Bellamont gave him sailing orders, in which

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he was directed to act according to the letter of his commission.

Thus furnished, Capt. Kidd sailed in the Adventure Galley towards the end of the year 1695, for New York, and, in his way, took a French prize.. From thence he sailed to the Madeira, then to Bonavista and St. Iago, from whence he proceeded to Madagascar ; from thence he cruised at the entrance of the Red Sea ; but effecting nothing, he sailed to Callicut, and took a ship of 150 tons ; the master and three or four of the crew were Dutchmen, the rest Moors. This ship he earried to Madagascar ; from thence he failed again, and, about five weeks after, took the Quedah Merchant, of 400 tons ; the master was one Wright, an Englishman : she had on board two Dutch mates, and a French gunner ; the crew were Moors ; in all about ninety persons. The ship he carried to St. Maries, near Madagascar, and there he shared the goods with his crew, forty shares to his own use. Here ninety of his crew, who were 151 in all, left him, and went on board the Mocha Merchant, an East India Company ship, which had turned pirate ; and there was every grain as much reason to charge that company with the piracies the Mocha Merchants crew committed, as there was to charge Kidd's Adventurers with his. He and his men burnt his own ship, the Adventure Galley, at St. Maries, and they all went on board the Quedah Merchant, and failed for the West Indies. Being denied succour at St. Auguilla, and St. Thomas's, he sailed to Moua, lying between Porto Rico and Hispaniola ; and there, by the means of one Bolton, he got some provisions from Curassau. He bought a sloop of Bolton,

Bolton, in which he loaded part of his goods, and left the Quedah Merchant, in trust with Bolton, and seventeen or eighteen men in her. In this sloop he touched at several places, and disposed of a great part of his goods, and at last came to Boston in New England, where the earl of Bellamont seized him, and what goods he had left; for this fellow either had, or pretended to have, a notion, that the Quedah Merchant being manned by Moors, was a lawful prize, though there was no proof that the commander of her, and his crew, had committed any piracy on the English, or any other European, or indeed Indian nation.

As soon as this was done, his lordship sent advice of his taking Capt. Kidd to England, and desired that a ship might be sent to bring him home. This was accordingly complied with; but the Rochester, which was the ship employed in this service, being disabled, was forced to return, which heightened the clamour that had been already raised about this transaction.

The source of this clamour, undoubtedly, was a private pique to particular persons, which induced some warm men to put a question in the House of Commons, that the letters patent granted to the earl of Bellamont, and others, of pirates goods, were dishonourable to the king, against the law of nations, contrary to the laws and statutes of this realm, an invasion of property, and destructive to commerce. This was carried in the negative; but it did not hinder those from charging lord Somers and the earl of Oxford, for countenancing pirates; and to give some colour to this groundless, improbable charge, as soon as it was known the Rochester was

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was returned, it was suggested, that the sending that ship was mere collusion, that the earl of Bellamont was as deep in this affair as the rest ; and upon this a motion was made, and carried in the House of Commons, for an address to his Majesty, that Kidd might not be tried till next sessions of parliament, and that the earl of Bellamont might be directed to send home all examinations, and other papers, relating to this business ; which the king promised very readily.

One would have imagined, that the return of Kidd to England, who was sent home with such a load of evidence as might have hanged a dozen men, would have put an end to the noise raised about it ; and yet the contrary proved true, notwithstanding all the pretensions the government could take to prevent it. Capt. Kidd was sent for to the House of Commons, and examined at the bar, where he made a very indifferent figure, and was, besides, a little in liquor ; upon which one of the members, that had been most forward in bringing him down, could not help saying in a passion, “ D---n this fellow, I thought he had been only a knave, but he unluckily proves a fool too.” This scheme not taking effect, they had recourse to another, which was, to alledge, that when Kidd was brought down to the house, he had a conference with the chancellor, and several other lords, in the earl of Hallifax’s dining-room : but, upon a strict examination, this was discovered to be a falsehood, though supported by some depositions of scandalous people. Yet, notwithstanding this detection, it was resolved to impeach the earl of Oxford, chiefly for being an accomplice with Kidd the pirate ; and accordingly several articles were drawn,

drawn, setting forth the confederacy between them, wherein his Lordship is not only charged for being protector of Kidd, and owner of his ship, and one who gave him instructions for his voyage, but also with weakening the royal navy, in order to furnish this man with sailors proper for his purpose.

These articles were agreed to by the House of Commons on the 8th of May 1701, the very day that Kidd was put upon his trial for piracy at the Old Bailey, where he was convicted with many of his companions, and soon after executed; but could never be prevailed upon to charge any of the noble persons who were his owners, with having any thing to do with his proceeding. Yet after his death, the Commons, in an impeachment, by them preferred against John, Lord Somers, charged him, as Lord Keeper of the Great Seal of England, in conjunction with the Earl of Bellamont, governor of New York and of New England, and others then in great stations, and in high power and authority, for sealing a commission to one William Kidd, a person of very bad fame and reputation, since convicted of piracy, and with procuring a grant of pirates goods taken by the said William Kidd, under colour of the said Commissioners, in trust for himself, under other persons, with abundance more to the same purpose, intended purely to hurt that lord's character, and render it impossible for his majesty to employ him longer in his service; though his Lordship, conscious of his own innocence, took every measure possible to have brought this matter to a fair, open, and speedy trial.

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Thus far we have considered the conduct of Capt. Kidd in a general light, and as he appeared on the public stage ; it is now time to return to his private fortune, which was such as he deserved ; for having been convicted with Gabriel Loft, Hugh Parrot, and Darby Mulleirs, at an Admiralty sessions, held at the Old Bailey, on the 8th and 9th of May, 1701, he was ordered to suffer at Execution dock on the 23d of the same month. As to his behaviour, take it in the words of the Ordinary.

Capt. William Kidd was about 56 years of age, born in Scotland. I found him unwilling to confess the crimes he was convicted of, or declare any thing, otherwise than that he had been a great offender, and lived without any due consideration, either of God's mercy or judgment, or of his wonderful works which had been often set before him ; that he never remembered to return him thanks for the many great deliverances he had received from him, nor called himself to account for what he had done ; and now he owns that God is a just God, and he a vile and wretched sinner. He says, he repents of all his sins, and hopes to be saved through the merits of Christ ; and that he died in charity with all the world.

At the place of execution, I found he was inflamed with drink, which had so discomposed his mind, that it was very unfit for the great work before him, and not so concerned and affected as he ought to have been. It is true, he spoke some words, and expressed his confidence in God's mercies through Christ, and that he died in charity ; but still I suspected sincerity, because he reflected more upon others than upon himself,

himself and endeavoured to lay his faults upon his crew and others, in the same manner as he did upon his trial ; and was unwilling to own the justness of his condemnation, or so much as the providence of God, who, for his sins, had deservedly brought him to this untimely end.

But here I must take notice of a remarkable accident that happened. The rope, with which Capt. William Kidd was tied, broke, and falling to the ground, he was taken up alive ; and by this means had opportunity to consider more of that eternity which he was to be launched into. When he was brought up, and tied again to the tree, I shewed him the great mercy of God in giving him unexpectedly this further respite, that so he might improve the few moments, thus happily allotted him, in perfecting his farther repentance. Now I found him in a much better temper than before, and pressed him, before it was too late, to embrace the mercy of God, now again offered him, on the easy conditions of stedfast faith, true repentance and perfect charity ; which now indeed he did so freely and fully express, that I hope he was hearty and sincere in it. Then having prayed with him, I left him with greater satisfaction than I did before.

*The Life, Trial, and Confession of THOMAS
COOK, for the Murder of John Cooper,
a Constable.*

THOMAS COOK was indicted at the Sessions at the Old Bailey, May 22, 1703, for the murder of John Cooper, a constable, by

giving him a mortal wound with a rapier in his body near the left pap, on the 12th of May 1702, of which he languished till the 16th, and then died.

The evidence deposed, that a warrant being issued out by the Justices to the high constable, for suppressing vice and immorality, in pursuance of her Majesty's declaration, he accordingly sent his summons to the other constables, who met, and going to May-fair a tumult arose, and that the other constables having seized on the prisoner's wife (it coming to his ears, who was then at home at his own house, he swore he would have the blood of some of them before he came out of the fair, and thereupon shut up his house, and going into the fair, he, with a drawn sword in his hand, and a mob of about 30 soldiers, &c. got over a bank, and stood in defiance of the constables, huzzaing, and throwing brickbats at them; but Mr. Cooper approaching near them, they leaped over the bank, and pursued the constables to the sheep-pens, and Mr. Cooper being hindmost they overtook him, cut and wounded him so that he died; that the prisoner had a sword in his hand, and afterwards the constables staff; and the mob overpowering the constables, they escaped: that being informed the prisoner was the person that killed him, they went to apprehend him, and three days after met him in their way to the fair; and he, perceiving them, drew his sword, made several passes at them, waved it over his head, ran into the fair, made his escape, and got over to Ireland; and being in a pulic house, and talking with a man who taught the small sword, the prisoner swore very profanely. Upon which the master of the house

house rebuked him, telling him, there were some people in the house who would take him up for it ; to whom he replied, were there any of the informing dogs in Ireland ? for said he, we in London drive them, " for at a fair called May-fair, there was a noise, and I went out to see, and there were six soldiers and myself, the constables played their parts with their staves, and I made mine, and when the man dropt, I wiped my sword, put it up, and went away." Having several times told of this exploit in a boasting manner, he was at last apprehended and sent to Chester, and from thence removed by a Habeas Corpus to London, and so to the Old Bailey.

This being the sum of the evidence against the prisoner, he, in his defence, pleaded, that he was disabled, having played a prize the 29th of April before, and was so wounded, that it was not likely he should be concerned in any such action ; and as for the woman that was taken up for his wife, he disowned her, saying, she was only his bar-keeper, and that as soon as she came back, she shut up his house, and went to another. But the evidence being positive that he was the man, the Jury found him guilty of the indictment, and he received sentence of death accordingly.

Thomas Cook, the prize-fighter, commonly known by the name of The Butcher of Gloucester, was about thirty-five years of age, and born at Gloucester of honest parents, who sent him up to London at the age of about fifteen, where he was put apprentice to a barber-surgeon, with whom, having served about two years, he run away, and got into the service of

Squire Needham, page of honour to king William: but his mother sending for him into the country, telling him a gentleman's service was no inheritance, he went down to Gloucester, and set up the trade of a butcher, which he followed for many years, and served master of the company of butchers in that city; but being (as he said) too much emboldened with courage, he thought no man better than himself, and so took up the sword, and followed the exercise of prize-fighting for several years, till apprehended and indicted for the murder of John Cooper the constable, as before related.

While under sentence, he shewed great signs of remorse of conscience, and penitence for the sins of his past life: owned, that in the several employments he had followed, he had frequently been unjust, had stolen sheep, been a grievous sinner, a great swearer, a drinker, an adulterer, a profane and lewd wretch, a sworn enemy to those who were employed in the reformation of manners; that for several years past he had made it his business to fight prizes, an exercise which the pride of his heart carried him to, and which he now looked upon as heathenish and barbarous, which, with all the wicked practices of his life, especially his flight of religion, he did desert and abhor; and begged of God not to remember against him the sins of his youth; but to forgive him all his sins, which were indeed many and great. But as to the fact he was to die for, he positively denied it; saying, he heartily forgave those persons who had sworn against him; declaring he was in perfect peace and charity with all mankind.

He being in this disposition, and desiring to receive the sacrament, it was administered to him July 2, which he received with a great deal of seeming devotion; and was then, with the rest of the criminals that were to suffer, carried towards Tyburn in order for execution.

When he had got as far as Bloomsbury, there came a reprieve for him till Friday the 23d of the same month, and he was again carried back to Newgate. The Ordinary, on his return from the execution of the other malefactors, went to visit him in the condemned hole, and found him at prayers, in which he seemed very earnest and devout, and said he was not affected with this temporal life, and would have been well contented to have died with his condemned fellow-prisoners. But that it happening otherwise, he desired, however, to have gone through to the place of execution, that he might have joined in prayer with them, and be himself raised to a higher pitch of devotion; but the officers would not permit him.

Being come back to Newgate, some of his friends would have rejoiced and made merry with him, on account of his reprieve; but he would not consent to it, desiring privacy and retirement from all persons, except such as could assist his devotions, that he might more carefully improve that small addition of time to a higher degree of repentance and contrition for his sins.

That reprieve being expired, there came another till the 11th of August, during which interval, he spent his time in a constant practice of devotion. On the 6th of August an order came down for his execution on the 11th, which the Ordinary signified to him, but did not

not perceive him at all moved or troubled at it; but said he was very willing to die, since it was the will of God he should.

At the place of execution he read to the spectators, and gave the Ordinary his dying speech; in which, after giving an account of his past mispent life, he added: but as to what I die for, I do declare before God and all the world, I die innocent. There was one witness deposed upon oath, "That he saw me lock up my doors, and go towards the fair with a sword in my hand." And there was one Jonathan Sheppard, who declared upon oath, "That he saw me in the middle of the mob with a naked sword in my hand." And there was a beadle declared also, upon oath, "That he saw me with a sword in my hand bloody." And there was one Mr. Deering, who likewise declared, upon oath, "That I told him in Ireland, than when the constable dropt, I wiped my sword, put it up, and went away." Which I declare I never said, nor spoke any such words to him in all my life. And further, I do declare, as I expect mercy from God, I had no sword in my hand at the fair that day, and did not so much as lift up my hand either for or against any person when the constable was killed.

But notwithstanding this, Arthur Chambers, who was tried for the murder of Mr. Cooper the constable, when he and Richard Morris were at the place of execution, they both declared to the Ordinary, that the informations they had given to Mr. Billers were true, and Chambers said particularly, he had in his done no injury either to the living or dead, in that information that

that related to the riot in May-fair, when Mr. Cooper the constable was murdered, in which he declared, that Thomas Cook, who suffered for it with such an air of seeming repentance, and to his last breath denied it, was concerned in it.

The Trial of JOHN PETER DRAMATTI, for the Murder of his Wife.

JOHN PETER DRAMATTI was indicted at the Old Bailey, May 1703, for the murder of Frances his wife.

It appeared by the evidences, that the prisoner at the time of his commitment, was servant to the Lord Haversham, who lived then at Kensington, and coming home bloody that night the murder was committed, was examined by his lordship and the family, how he came in that condition? he answered, that coming over the park, he met with two men who set upon him and would have robbed him of his cloaths, which obliged him to defend himself, saying, he had broke one of their heads. This answer satisfied them for that night. But the next day, the servants hearing a paper cried about, giving an account of a barbarous murder committed near bloody-bridge, Chelsea, they acquainted their lord with it, telling him, they supposed Dramatti had killed his wife, he having come home the night before bloody, with his sword broke, the hilt bruised, and his cane shattered, especially remem-

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remembering, that when she was at the house, they heard her complain of bad usage. Upon this his lord, in order to employ him, and that he might not mistrust any thing, ordered him to get the coach ready, and in the mean time sent for a constable, who having apprehended him, on searching him found his wife's coif in his coat pocket ; and coming to London in order to go before a justice, in the coach by the way, he acknowledged the fact to the constable, and being asked for what reason he killed her, he answered, because she was a wicked woman, and had cheated him, in telling him when he married her, she was of the Blood-royal of France, and would maintain him without working ; instead of which, he was obliged to work to maintain her.

The deceased was found murdered in a ditch, between Hyde-park and Chelsea, lying upon her belly, and there was a track of blood for about twenty yards from a place where a piece of a sword (which fitted the other part which the prisoner had) was found sticking in the bank, and that she had one and twenty wounds in her head and neck, one of which went into her wind-pipe, and another behind the ear which went into her mouth, besides a great many more in other parts of the body.

It was likewise deposed, that late the night after the murder was committed, he went into his lord's chamber when he was in bed, which is supposed was to rob him of Gold which was there, and afterwards make his escape ; and that his lord asking who it was, and what was his business, he pretended to come there for something he wanted.

All he had to say in his defence on his trial was, that she followed him and provoked him to it. Whereupon the jury found him guilty of wilful murder.

The Ordinary's account of him is as follows : John Peter Dramatti, said he, was about 30 years of age, born of honest and religious parents, and brought up in the protestant religion at Saverdun, in the county of Foix, in the province of Languedon in France. That about nine years since, he left his own country, on account of the persecution there, and went to Geneva, and from thence to Germany, where he served for some time, in the Elector of Brandenburg, now the King of Prussia's Horse-grenadiers ; and leaving that employment about eight years ago, was admitted into Lord Haversham's service, in which he staid twelve months, and then left it to go a soldier in Col. de la Miere's regiment, under the command of Capt. de la Cour ; and having made two campaigns to Flanders, the regiment was commanded to Ireland, where it was broke, and Dramatti discharged. Upon which having got a slight acquaintance with one Frances Morris, who giving herself out as a great fortune, and even of Royal extraction, he presently married her, not only for her wealth, but because she understood the English and Irish, of both which he himself was ignorant. After his marriage, he soon found she had catched him, and not he her : she having nothing to live upon, he took a small farm about ten Miles off Cork, which he rented for fifty pounds, intending to turn husbandman ; but being wholly unacquainted with that kind of business he could make nothing of it. Upon this, he went to Corke, and being a Skinner,

Skinner, he worked at his trade, and settled there. But after a twelvemonth's trial, this not turning to account, he returned to England, and was entertained by the noble Lord he had served before, and continued in that service with approbation to the day of his committment.

As to the murder of his wife, the account he gave of it was this, viz. That she being very uneasy to live from him, as she did, would have had him taken her with him to his noble lord's, which he would not do, saying, his lordship knew nothing of their marriage. Then she would have persuaded him to leave his service; but he said, he thought it not convenient to do that neither, as having a very good lord, whom he loved, and without whose assistance, he did not know what shift he could make to live.

This answer made his wife still more uneasy; and (without the least cause for it, as he said) she discovered her jealousy of him, fancying he had placed his affections on some other woman; and this jealousy rose to such a height at last, that it became insupportable to both of them. To which an accident that then happened, did not a little contribute. It was this: about Christmas last he fell sick of a fever, and was, by his lord's orders, carefully looked after, as well for physic as attendance. But his wife coming one day to see him, would have had him away, but he would not consent to it; and a servant-maid being with him in his chamber, who had brought him some water-gruel, she presently concluded, that was his love; and upon this, repeated her importunities to persuade him to leave that house, and be with her. He replied, that so long as his lord was so kind to him, and provided

provided for him so well, and to keep him while he was sick, he did not think it fit, by any means to remove, to go and starve with her. Which answer served but to inflame her passion; and looking on his denial as the effect of some secret amours, with that maid, or some other in the family, she resolved to give him no rest, who (though innocently) had thus disturbed hers. When he was recovered of his illness, he visited her now and then at his lodgings; but his service would not permit him to make those visits, so long, or so frequent as she desired; and when his lord took lodgings at Kensington, Dramatti had so much business, and was in such haste and hurry, occasioned by the removal, that he had no time to see his wife, and let her know of it before he went; and when she came to hear of it by other means, she was in a great passion, and came to Kensington, to reproach him with his unkindness to her; though he said he always took care to provide for her, so far as his capacity enabled him, and had given her three guineas not long before her death, and always went to see her as often as he could. But that would not satisfy her, she wanted him to keep a shop, and live at home with her, which he was not willing to do.

After many debates and contentions about this matter it fell out, that on that fatal day, the 9th of June last, he being sent by his master on some errand to town, and his business being towards Soho, he called upon his wife, and as he was going away, she took hold of him and would not let him go: but getting off, he went towards Charing-cross, whither she followed him, till with much persuasion (he telling her he was go-

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ing to his lord in Spring-garden) she seemed to yield to his desire of her returning home, instead of which, she waited for him at Hyde-park gate, to catch him in his way to Kensington, and in the evening there stopped him, and would not let him go any further, unless he took her along with him. He told her, that his lord knowing nothing of his having a wife, it would look very ill for him to bring her at that time of night into his lordship's lodgings, and might occasion his lord's displeasure, and his own dismission from his service; and therefore desired her to get home as fast as she could. But all his arguments had no other effect upon her, but to make her more earnest to follow him. "She would go " (she said) in spite of his teeth, or else she " would have his life, or he should have hers." Upon which he replied, "if you will go to " Kensington, then you may go alone; that is " the way," pointing to the park, whilst himself was turning and walking on towards Chelsea; and there it was, viz. about Bloody-bridge, that through the long and sharp contentions, and the many angry and reproachful words that had passed between them, their passions were heightened to that degree, that they fell together by the ears in good earnest; and he said she first took him by the neckcloth, and would have strangled him. Whereupon he beat her most unmercifully, both with cane and sword, which he supposes she broke with her hands, she being a very strong lusty woman, and might easily have mastered him, had he been naked and without weapons. He said, his rage and fury were so great, and he was so transported out of himself, that at that instant, the devil had the whole power

power of him, and he did not so much as know what he was doing. I asked him whether he was at that time in liquor ; he answered, he never was drunk in his life.

Having given this woman many cruel wounds, and some of them mortal, he left her in a ditch (as he thought) half dead, and in such a condition as she could never recover. After this barbarity, he came a little to himself, and considering that he had now done an action of the most heinous nature, he presently fell on his knees, and begged God's pardon for it, and then made the best of his way towards his Lord's lodgings at Kensington, where coming late at night, and his cloaths and stockings being observed to be bloody, he was thought to have done some mischief, or to have had some mischief done him. But he removed this suspicion from himself, by saying, he was assaulted by two men in the park, and he had (as he believed) broke the head of one of them. Which story passed for truth, and the matter rested for that night. The next day he went about his business, as usual, and his lord sent him to town on some errand, by which means he came to hear (before the news arrived at Kensington) of the barbarous murder cried about the streets : yet, he said, it never came into his mind to make his escape, though he expected every moment to be laid hold on for it. So having dispatched his business, he returned to Kensington, where the next day after, being the 11th of June, he was apprehended upon strong suspicions, and upon his own confession committed to Newgate. Where on my visiting him, I found him very stupid. 'Tis true, he did not deny the wicked action, but stood in

justification of it, saying, he was highly provoked by his wife, who was a very ill-woman, and of a restless spirit. And in the same manner spoke of it to his acquaintance who came to see him. But at last, I hope, he was thoroughly convinced of the horror of it, and that nothing in the world should have provoked him to it, nor indeed, could have done it, had he had the fear of God before his eyes. Then he said he had greatly offended God, and heartily begged pardon of him ; praying that the precious blood of Christ might cleanse his soul, and his pardon be extended to all his sins, which, though he could not recollect, yet they were many and great ; and though in divers respects, he had led a better and more sober life than some others, yet he acknowledged, with great contrition, that as he had been induced by satan to the commission of this most enormous crime, “ he was the greatest of sinners,” and might have been undone for ever, had not the grace of God rescued him “ out of the snare of the devil, by whom he was taken captive at his will.” But added, that though he was willing to charge and accuse himself with the sins he was guilty of, yet he would not take upon him the guilt of that, of which he was innocent, and unjustly accused. And that was, his supposed design of robbing his lord, the same night he committed the inhuman action ; saying, that his going into his lord’s chamber again after he had put his lordship to bed, was to take a silver tumbler, which he had forgot, and so went up again presently to fetch it, that he might have it ready against the next morning betimes, to take asses milk in it for his lord, who, he was well assured, had no such thoughts

thoughts of him, that he would have stolen any gold, or any thing else from his lordship as was suggested ; for he was already got out of the chamber with the tumbler, and was shutting the door, before his lordship called to know, who that was that came in there.

He further said, that he had no need of money, as not intending to make his escape, which he could have done without robbing his lord. But neither that night, nor the next day, when he was abroad, and expected every moment to be seized, did he entertain any thoughts of flying from justice, as knowing that the Divine vengeance would some time or other overtake him, whithersoever he went, and that the providence of God, which seldom lets the murderer go unpunished in this world, would bring this black deed to light, and himself to condign punishment for it ; adding, that when a little before his trial, he went about to make his escape out of Newgate, disguised in woman's cloaths, it was neither his desire at first, nor his intention at all, but he was persuaded to it by one Yoward, then a prisoner with him there, who discovered and betrayed him, when he was ready to execute this enterprize. He declared he was in charity with all mankind, wishing all mankind were so with him. And again begged pardon and forgiveness of God whom he had so grievously offended. He also thought it his duty to ask pardon of the Queen, whose land he had defiled with blood ; and of the church of God, which he had given so great a scandal to ; of his lord, that he had proved such an unhappy servant ; and of the world, for having set before them such an instance of sin, as (considering all the heinous ag-

gravating circumstances of it) was never seen before. But his hope is, that all men, instead of imitating him in his crime, will abhor and detest it, and take such a warning by his fall, as carefully to avoid both his sin and punishment.

At the place of execution, after M. le Bland, a French Divine, who knew him, and myself, had prayed and sung a Psalm with him in French, we left him to his private devotions, wherein he mightily prayed to God, that he would “ blot out all his iniquities,” and that the blood of Christ (which speaks better things than that of Abel) might cleanse his soul from the stain of that blood, which he had so unjustly, so inhumanly, and so barbarously shed ; concluding both his prayers and his life with most pious ejaculations, and particularly with these words ; “ deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God ; thou God of my salvation, and my mouth shall sing thy praise in the Choir of Angels, and blessed Saints, to all ages of eternity.

*The Behaviour, Confession, and last Speech
of JOHN SMITH, a Highwayman of
eight Days.*

JOHN SMITH was indicted at the Old Bailey the 6th of November, 1704, upon four indictments, the first for robbing Thomas Woodcock, Esq; on the highway, and taking from him, a silver watch with a chain, and a cornelian seal set in gold, and ten shillings in money, the 6th of November.

Esquire

Esquire Woodeock deposed, that as he, his lady, and Mrs. Ann Montague were riding in his coach over Finchley Common, a man came to the coach-side with a mask on, and demanded his money, which he gave him, together with his watch and ring. The second indictment was for robbing Elizabeth the wife of Thomas Woodcock, Esq; on the 6th of November, on the highway, taking from her a silk purse, two keys, and four guineas. He was a third time indicted for robbing Ann Montague at the same time, and taking from her a silk purse, and three shillings in money. The fourth indictment was for robbing one William Birch on the highway, on the 29th of October, and stealing from him a grey mare value eight pounds.

The prosecutor deposed, that as he was riding along between Eaton and London, near Paddington, at a place called Bays-water, he saw two men on foot, and one of them laid hold of his bridle, and made him dismount, and they both got upon the mare and rode away with her, and he verily believed that Smith is the person that laid hold of his horse's bridle, but he was sure the mare taken when Smith was apprehended, was the same which was taken from him.

The next evidence deposed, that he saw Smith upon Finchley Common about nine o'clock in the morning, by a place called the Woodhouse, and observed him riding to and fro on the common till 12 o'clock, and then saw him ride up to a coach, which he let pass; and thinking he was a highwayman, he called one of his neighbours; and they saw another coach coming along, which he rode up to, and stopt, and robbed

the people that were in it, and then rode away; but they pursued him, and he finding himself likely to be taken, took into a wood, and left his horse tied to a bush.

Serjeant Bonithan deposed, that he riding that way with his man, and hearing there had been a robbery committed, pursued the thief into a wood called Cole-fall, and ordered his man to ride into the wood, while he rode round to see if he had made his escape out of it; that in searching, they found the grey mare tied to a bush; soon after, seven or eight men more came to their assistance; and at last a huntsman espied Smith lying under a tree, and advancing towards him with a blunderbuss, Smith desired him not to shoot him, and he would surrender himself, and do no mischief; and immediately shot off his two pistols into the air; upon which one of the men laid hold of him, and carried him to Muzzle-hill, where they searched him, and found the watch and purses, a mask, some powder and bullets, besides money. Then he told them, he would have made his escape, but that the mare was a jade, upon which he was committed to Newgate. However, upon his trial, he denied the fact, saying, as he was going into Yorkshire upon a bay gelding, near Coney-hatch, he met with two men who took his gelding from him; and one of them told him, if he went to such a place, he would find a mare tied to a bush; and as he was going away, one of them flung him a handkerchief in which were the purses and watch that were found upon him. He likewise said he was prosecuted for the lucre of forty pounds. The Jury found him guilty. Death.

The

The Ordinary, in his account of this malefactor, says, he confessed the facts very freely, and begged pardon of God, and those he had wronged, but said withal, that though he must confess, he had been a great offender in many things, yet he was an offender but of eight days, viz. from October 29, to November 6, adding, that it was at first, a great surprize and uneasiness to him, to find his last robbery split into three distinct facts, and to be the matter of three several indictments against him. But was very well contented to be thought the worst of men by men, provided he might obtain the favour of God by Christ; which he implored. He said, further, that he was about twenty-three years of age, born at Witchcomb, within ten miles of Gloucester; that he was a Peruke-maker by trade, and well brought up by his parents, who gave him civil and religious education, though he did not answer their expectation and desire, but was disobedient and undutiful to them, and fell into many extravagancies and debaucheries, which he frankly confessed, and seemed very sorry for them.

He further said, that the ill habits he so early contracted, were strangely confirmed by his being (though but a little while) at sea. From whence, when he was returned, he became so familiarly acquainted with a certain Peruke-maker in Chancery-lane, that one day he opened to him a discourse of going to rob upon the highway; which being soon agreed upon, they set out upon that intent on the Lord's day, being the 19th of October last. And as they were waiting for a booty about Paddington, and were there walking up and down, he rested himself

self upon a stile over-against the gallows. At the sight of which his heart misgave him ; and he thought within himself, that some time or other he should come to end his life, where he was now beginning to rob ; which he told his companion, and would have persuaded him to go home again with him ; but instead of yielding to it, he egg'd him on ; telling him, " What matters it, Jack ? 'tis but hanging, if thou should'st come to that." So they proceeded on their wicked design ; and the next person that came in their way was Mr. Birch, whose mare they stole, which was their first robbery. The next day, which was Monday the 30th of October, he set out alone upon that mare, and robbed three stage coaches by Epping Forest. The Wednesday following, November 1, he robbed three other stage coaches, and a hackney coach upon Hounslow Heath ; and the next Saturday, Nov. 4. he robbed three stage coaches more near St. Alban's. In all which robberies, he said, he did not get above 20l. ; and, lastly, he robbed Mr. Woodcock's coach on Finchley Common, the 6th of November, for which he was apprehended : all which said robberies (that of Mr. Birch excepted) he did by himself.

At the place of execution, he gave the Ordinary a paper, in which he confessed his guilt, the wicked course of life he had led, how he came to turn highwayman ; and concluded, with earnest entreaties to all young men to take warning by his example, and avoid those ways that had unhappily brought him to this shameful and untimely end.

*The Trials, Behaviour, &c. of EDWARD
JEFFERIS, and ELIZABETH FORSHELL.*

EDWARD JEFFERIS and ELIZABETH FORSHEL, were indicted at the Old Bailey, the 30th of September, 1705, the first for the murder of Mr. Woodcock, of Clifford's Inn, on the 26th of July, by giving him one wound with a rapier, of the depth of six inches, of which he instantly died ; and Elizabeth Forshel, for being present, aiding and abetting the said murder.

It appeared by the evidence, that Mr. Jefferis and Mr. Woodcock had dined together at the Blue-posts the lower end of Pall-Mall the day the deceased was killed, between one and two o'clock, and that then they parted, Jefferis going to Forshel's lodgings in St. Martin's Lane, and was seen to go out with her towards the park, and came home about six at night : that Mrs. Forshel being told that the gentleman that was with her lay dead in St. Martin's Church-yard, she exclaimed, "Death and fury ! is it he ?" and having seen him, cried out, " O Lord ! it is he, don't make any disturbance ;" and that when the officers came to her Lodgings to apprehend her, she had locked herself in, but the officer threatening to break open the door, she let him in, and on his searching he found a purse and three rings in one of the drawers, which were proved to be Mr. Woodcock's.

As to Mr. Jefferis, a boy declared that he and another boy were playing in the fields near Chelsea, about four in the afternoon, there and saw

Mr.

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Mr. Jefferis and Mr. Woodcock, and heard them grumbling together as they walked towards the road : that then Mr. Jefferis said to Mr. Woodcock, " G---d damn you, you lie ; " to which Mr. Woodcock replied, " pray don't give me the lie too." That presently Mr. Jefferis drew his sword, and before Mr. Woodcock could draw his (he being left-handed) he received a wound, and fell down immediately ; that then Mr. Jefferis drew Mr. Woodcock's sword, and took some of his blood, and rubbed it upon it, but that not being enough, he squeezed the wound to get out more, and having blooded the sword, he put it under him, that the people might think he killed himself, and then put his hand into Mr. Woodcock's pocket, took something out, and then ran towards Chelsea, and that he and his play-fellow followed him ; that as he ran along he broke his own sword, and put it under his coat ; but they still following him, he turned about, and said, " he would knock their brains out, if they followed him any farther ; " which made them run back. The boys said likewise, that Mrs. Forshel was walking the mean time by the park wall, and that after Mr. Jefferis had killed Mr. Woodcock, she came into the field and was going towards the dead body ; but seeing them there, she seemed to turn back. This was confirmed by the other boy likewise.

Other evidences deposed, that after the murder was committed, about half an hour after four, Mr. Jefferis and Mrs. Forshel met at the Cheshire cheese at Chelsea, and staid there till near six.

Mr.

Mr. Jefferis denied the fact, and said he was at another place when the murder was done, and called some witnesses to prove it, but none of them agreed as to the time. The Jury thereupon brought him in guilty; but acquitted her.

The account given by the Ordinary of this malefactor, is, that on the 9th of September, as he was proceeding to Tyburn, he met by the way with a reprieve, by virtue of which his execution was deferred till the 21st of the same month, and then he was carried in a cart to Tyburn. Before this he had made the following confession, viz. That he was about 41 years of age, born of good parents, near the Devizes in Wiltshire, and brought up to the law here in London. He confessed that he had been unfaithful and unkind to his wife, and had led a very wicked and debauched life; and that to support his lewd and extravagant expences, he had done things unaccountable, especially in his practice as an attorney; in which he said he did not act for himself, but as an attorney for other persons, whose cause, let it be what it would, he then thought, in that capacity, he ought to serve. Herein I endeavoured to rectify his judgment, who seemingly acquiesced in the unlawfulness of such undertaking. As for the murder of Mr. Woodcock, neither myself, nor several other divines, could, by any arguments that were offered, bring him to a confession of it. He gives this character of himself:

“ I was born of very honest parents in the West of this kingdom, and religiously educated in the Church of England; which church (by the grace of God) I die in. I

“ served my clerkship to an eminent attorney
“ in London. My father died, leaving me an
“ estate too young, which in some little time I
“ spent. I married a virtuous young woman,
“ whose parents lived at St. Alban’s; never
“ having any other wife than her, nor ever lived
“ with any other woman but her; but vainly
“ and profusely spent part of my precious time
“ with many. I had a great blessing in her, if
“ it had pleased God to have given me grace to
“ have made use of it. In the first place she
“ was to me chaste, beautiful, and young, and
“ loved me too well. I, like the cock in the
“ fable, not knowing the value of so precious
“ a jewel, made slight of it, which now too
“ late I esteem, and repent that I should do
“ those things which I ought not to have done,
“ and to have left undone those things which I
“ ought to have done: for which omission God
“ Almighty has, I hope, pardoned me. Into
“ whose blessed hands I commend my immor-
“ tal soul: and so, vain world, adieu.”

At the place of execution he again denied the fact. He said, he freely pardoned all that had injured him, and begged theirs whom he had injured, declaring he died in perfect charity with all mankind. He did not appear dejected at all, nor did he change his countenance, so far as could be perceived. This was the manner in which he went out of the world, which, to some, seemed extraordinary. As he was going to be turned off, he desired again the prayers of all good people there; and he ended his life with calling upon God for mercy.

Mrs.

Mrs. Forshell's letter to the Ordinary, containing an Account of what she knew of the murder of Mr. Woodcock by Mr. Jefferis.

Rev. Sir,

AFTER a consideration of your good coun-
sel, I think it my duty to give you an an-
swer to the utmost of my knowledge in this
murder of Mr. Woodcock. When Mr. Jef-
feris and I came through the Park, we went into
the hither door of the Mulberry Garden, and
walked up towards the house. Said Mr. Jef-
feris, " we will go to Chelsea, and if you will
" go through the house, we will make an ex-
" cuse at the bar." I went through first, and
staid at the wall, and Mr. Jefferis came to me.
Then we walked towards Chelsea, and entering
into the field that was the direct path, Mr. Jef-
feris said, " There is a friend of mine, pray
" walk on, and I will overtake you immediate-
" ly." Accordingly I did, and got within two
fields of Chelsea, when Mr. Jefferis overtook
me, (which way he came I know not) for I
walked very slow, and he was by me before I
had any sight of him. I perceived something
of a surprize in him. Said I, " you are out of
" temper. " Have you and that gentleman had
" any words?" He answered me, " We have
" had words, and I gave him a small prick." But
said I, " I hope you have not hurt him." " No, no, said Mr. Jefferis." And that was every
word that was spoke concerning it. When we
came into Chelsea, Mr. Jefferis said, " we will
" go to the Cheshire-cheese, for I know the

“ man of that house.” So we went in, for then we were by the door ; and when we came into the room, Mr. Jefferis laid his sword, hat, and gloves on the table, and went out of the room. I took the sword in my hand, and drew it out of the scabbard, to see if it was bloody, by the reason he said, that he had pricked the gentleman, but the sword was neither bloody nor broke, as the boys said : but there is a good reason to be given for the boys saying so. For one day, when Mr. Jefferis and I was in chapel, I asked him, if he did not give the wound with Mr. Woodcock’s own sword, and if he did not draw it ? he replied no. Then said I, “ as he was drawing his sword, I suppose you snatched it from him ; for the surgeon said, it was not the sword you had that gave the wound. And did you break his sword, as the boys said you did ?” no, said he, “ I broke no sword.” But then replied I, “ Did not you go to break it ?” He made me no answer to that question, only said, it happened so unfortunately for me to know the said Mr. Woodcock, and my having these rings made him suffer. Said I, “ I knew not that you had killed him, when you were fetched by my order, neither did I know he was an acquaintance of yours ; but said I, I am told you have money of his, and that you changed one of his guineas, the night you came into gaol.” Said Mr. Jefferis, “ he gave me none.” Nay, Sir, said I to him, “ I don’t ask you if you took them, or if he gave you any ; but by what the boys and I do know there must be something more than I find you are willing I should know. I suppose he would not give you any, and that

“ was

" was the occasion that you quarrelled." He fetched a very great sigh, and shook his head, but made me no answer, which makes me think it was so; for he never spoke many words after, which made me think he resented my putting those questions so close to him. All that ever he said to me after, was, that he wondered I was not out, and said, he would not have me come up to chapel; for what reason, I cannot say, except it was for fear I should tell you how he left me; for said he to me, " don't you mention that when we went to Chelsea, I was any time out of your company; for if you do, then I shall not be reprieved." I humbly ask your pardon, sir, for not letting you know as far as my knowledge reached; but knowing I could not do the deceased any good, and it I spoke this he would lose his life, made me leave it to the just God who knows the secrets of all hearts. This is all I can say, but I beg of you to pray to God for me, to keep me from all such wicked persons: and that will add very much to the health and satisfaction of my poor soul.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

ELIZABETH FORSHEL.

*Out of the Master's side in Newgate,
October 15, 1705.*

Sir, one thing more I forgot to mention, which is, that Mr. Jefferis all along said, he should have a reprieve, if I said nothing concerning his

knowledge of Mr. Woodcock ; for he said, he had petitioned his Grace the Duke of Ormond, and that he would get a friend to go to the Queen, which I do believe was Mrs. Lambourn, one of the boys mothers. Mr. Jefferis moreover said, that the father of Mr. Robert Woodcock should not have his life ; for he did not question but he should be reprieved for all that. I suppose, Sir, that you knew Mr. Jefferis's opinion was, that there was only a heaven, and no place of torment for bad Livers, but to be put out of the presence of the Lord, which he said to me before he came into this place, and likewise since you and many more learned Divines have taken pains to make him own the fact, for which he justly has suffered.

E. F.

*The Life, Trial, and strange Escape from
the Gallows, of JOAN SMITH, otherwise
called half-hanged SMITH.*

JOHN SMITH, commonly called HALF-HANGED SMITH, was born at Malton, within fifteen Miles of York, came up to London young, and served an apprenticeship with a Packer, and afterwards worked journey-work for his master some time, then went to sea, first in the Jeffery galley, a merchant ship, and afterwards in the Triumph, a second rate, commanded by admiral Graydon, and was in the expedition against Vigo : but being discharged after the return of the ship, listed himself a soldier

dier in lord Cutt's regiment of guards, under Capt. Swan. His pay being not sufficient to supply his extravagant expences, he took to thieving and house-breaking, and committed divers facts.

He was indicted at the Old Bailey, December 5, 1705, for stealing fifty pair of men's shoes, from William Cox, near Leadenhall market.

The prosecutor deposed, that his shop was broke open. Another evidence swore that he and Smith broke open the door about six in the morning, and stole the goods, and that they had gone a thieving together for six or seven years. However, he denied the fact; but the jury found him guilty.

He was indicted a second time for breaking the warehouse of Peter Hollander in Mincing-lane, and stealing 900 yards of Guli Holland, the 5th of November. It appeared, that he and two others committed the robbery, and shared the goods between them, as was deposed by the wife of one of his accomplices, and also by another who was with him in the robbery.

He was indicted a third time for breaking the warehouse of Martha Leeton, the 28th of Feb. 1704, and stealing four hundred pound weight of China silk, value 350l. the goods of Joseph Bil-lows, but for want of sufficient evidence, was acquitted.

He was a fourth time indicted for stealing 148 pair of gloves, and twenty-two pair of stockings, from Richard Highley the third of Dec. It appeared by the evidence, that the shop was broke open, and Smith taken in it, the goods being bundled up in readiness to be carried off.

The

The Jury found him guilty of this indictment.

While he lay under sentence of death, he made but little preparations for it, buoying himself up with the hopes of a reprieve; but when he found himself disappointed, he was very much incensed against the persons who had undertaken to procure him one.

Being come to the place of execution, he desired that all would take warning by his untimely death, which none but himself by his sins had brought him to; and having performed the usual devotions at the tree, was turned off, the 12th of December, 1705. But by that time he had been hanging about a quarter of an hour, there was an outcry of a reprieve; upon which he was immediately cut down, and carried to a house hard by, where, being presently let blood, he came to himself, and was carried back to Newgate.

Being questioned concerning the experience he had gained by hanging, he gave the following account: that when he was turned off, he, for some time, was sensible of a very great pain, occasioned by the weight of his body, and felt his spirits in a strange commotion, violently pressing upwards; that having forced their way to his head, he, as it were, saw a great blaze or glaring light, which seemed to go out at his eyes with a flash, and then he lost all sense of pain. That after he was cut down, and began to come to himself, the blood and spirits having been spent, forcing themselves into their former channels, put him, by a sort of pricking or shooting, into so an intolerable pain, that he could

ould have wished those hanged that had cut him down.

He pleaded to his pardon the 20th of Feb. 1705. But as he had been but half-hanged, so it appeared he was but half cured of his dishonest and thievish inclinations; for though at first he kept himself within the limits of private frauds and petty larcenies, at length when the pain of hanging was worn out of his memory, he presumed to enter again upon his former practice of house-breaking, and was apprehended and indicted the 29th of April, 1715, for breaking the house of John Cooper on the 28th of Jan. in the night-time, with intention to steal. He was likewise indicted for breaking the warehouse of Benjamin Longuet and partners, (which warehouse was the lower room of Mr. Cooper's house). The evidence deposed, that the warehouse having been three times broke open, and the goods stolen, two watchmen were put in to lie in wait for the thieves if they came again, and that about five in the morning, April 29, they heard a noise, and saw the stock of the warehouse door unlocked, and soon after the padlock was wrenched and as John Smith entered, one of the watchmen struck at him, but missing him, he ran away as far as Rood-lane end, where he was taken. Upon searching him, the padlock with several pick-lock keys, and a tobacco-box with tinder and matches in it, were found in his pocket.

The fact being thus plainly proved upon him, he was found guilty of breaking the house or warehouse, as set forth in the indictment; but whether it was burglary, or in which of the places, the jury left special to be determined by the

the judges; and continuing in Newgate till Monday Nov. 10, he was brought to the bar, and by the opinion of the judges, on the special verdict brought against him for breaking the house of John Longuet, was acquitted, and another brought against him for the same fact in the name of John Cooper, but the prosecutor happening to be dead, and nobody appearing against him, he had the unmerited good fortune to be acquitted.

*The Trial and Confession of ROGER LOWEN,
for Murder.*

ROGER LOWEN was indicted for the murder of Mr. Richard Lloyd of Acton, the 20th of Sept. 1706. And being a foreigner, was allowed a party-jury, and to speak to the jury by an interpreter.

Mrs. Lloyd, the wife of the deceased, deposed, that Mrs. Lowen the prisoner's wife, was her cousin, and had sent to her the night before the murder was committed, to desire to speak with her; that accordingly about seven o'clock the next morning she went, and about an hour after, her husband, the deceased, as he was riding to Acton about some business, called upon her at Mr. Lowen's house; upon which Mr. Lowen invited her husband to dine with him; her husband said he must first go to Acton, then home, set up his horse, and then walk back thither: that, in his absence, Mr. Lowen expressed himself with much uneasiness for fear her

her husband should not come; upon which she told him he would certainly come according to his promise, if it did not rain much; and accordingly soon after 12 o'clock her husband came, and was introduced in the parlour by Mr. Lowen with the greatest seeming civility, where her husband set down his sword and cane in a corner of the room; and dinner not being ready, gave them an invitation to walk into the garden to see his plants; that having walked about half an hour, they went back into the house, and Mr. Lowen spoke to his wife concerning dinner, sending her into the kitchen to hasten it; and the prisoner, the deceased, and herself going into the parlour, Mr. Lowen took her husband's sword, and drew it out a little way, and praised it, and asked who was his cutler, by which she imagined he wanted to buy a new one. That her husband not suspecting any thing, there not being the least sign of anger in the prisoner, nor ever any difference between them, stood looking up the causey with his hands behind, when Mr. Lowen, on a sudden, drew the sword quite out of the scabbard, and giving a stamp with his foot, ran the sword into her husband's body just upon the right pap. She immediately crying out murder, clapped hold of the sword to disengage it from her husband's body and struggling with Mr. Lowen, got it out, but he drew it through her hands, cutting her finger to the bone, and gave her husband another stab in the arm. That her husband casting up his eyes, went towards the door, to lean upon a rail, she following him, crying out murder, and saying, speak to me my dear; he only held up his hands, but could not speak; she, with some help, got him into the house,

house, where having fetched two groans he immediately expired. That in the interim Justice Hawlly accidentally coming by, she informed him of the fact, saying, that a villain had murdered her husband.

Justice Hawlly, and other evidences, deposed, that the prisoner being examined, owned the fact, and that he designed to have done it before, and that all the concern he then had was, that he was afraid he had not killed him. The reason he gave for it was, that the deceased had been too familiar with his wife, and did often tread upon his corns, giving him no other satisfaction than begging pardon for it. That he had been informed, that, in his absence his wife lived in great splendor, kept a great equipage, coach, chariot, footman, &c. Which was deposed to be all false.

The prisoner upon his trial, pleaded, that when he went from England, which was about nine years before, he had importuned his wife to go with him, which she refused, and that he came to fetch her; that Mr. Lloyd had called him several names (but could not tell what they were) had often trod upon his corns; &c. and produced some persons who endeavoured to excuse the fact, by saying, that distraction had been incident to his family, and that they had often observed him to be much discontented, &c. But the jury disregarding those trifling allegations, found him guilty of wilful murder, and on the and statute of stabbing, on the Coroner's inquest; and he received sentence of death accordingly.

The Ordinary informs us that this criminal was a German gentleman, of about forty years

of age, born at Hanover, and brought up in the Lutheran church. He said he had been a gentleman of the equerry to the late Duke of Zell ; and that before he was entertained in that service, the duke, in consideration of his father, who was his huntsman, sent him into France to learn his exercises, at his highness's charge. He readily confessed the fact of which he was convicted, and had, for a long time before, designed to kill Mr. Lloyd ; but for a great while before his trial, and even some time after it, he seemed to doubt very much of that gentleman's death, saying, it was impossible he should have died of the wounds he gave him. But when he was at last convinced that the gentleman was really dead, he then appeared sensible he had committed a very base and heinous crime, and expressed great sorrow for it : and this was the more afflictive to his now awakened mind, when he considered the unreasonableness of that jealousy which was the occasion of it.

After his condemnation, he seemed to apply himself in good earnest to his devotion, in which he was principally directed by two reverend divines of his own church and nation, viz. Mr. Ruperti and Mr. Idzards.

At the place of execution, he delivered me a paper, containing his last speech to the world, which being in the German, I got translated into English as follows :

“ It is already known to the world for what
“ reason I am now brought to this place, and
“ am to suffer this shameful death, viz. for my
“ having shed innocent blood. I do acknow-
“ ledge the fact, and confess my fault, and rest
“ satisfied in the just sentence passed upon me,

“ it being agreeable to the laws of the land,
“ and the command of God, That whoever
“ sheddeth man’s blood, by man shall his blood
“ be shed; for God made man after his own
“ image. I was born of honest parents; my
“ father was an Englishman, and my mother a
“ German. I was educated from my youth in
“ the Protestant religion. I declare before God
“ and man, that I always had an aversion to
“ actions of this kind, and have taken great
“ care, in all the course of my life, to avoid
“ them: and though I often had the opportu-
“ nity of taking away the life of my adver-
“ ries in ungodly duels and quarrels, yet I take
“ God to witness, as a dying man, I never was
“ guilty of any murder before this, for which I
“ justly suffer. I am therefore the more grieved
“ now, that I have been moved to so great a
“ passion, as to study revenge, by the instiga-
“ tion of the devil and sinful jealousy, which
“ made me think (as I was persuaded by Mr.
“ Crusras) that my wife was married in my ab-
“ sence with the deceased. This is the unhap-
“ py thing that brought me to the commission
“ of this horrid sin, which I heartily bewail
“ with tears, and I do submit to my just pu-
“ nishment. I am deeply sensible how greatly
“ I have offended Almighty God, and therefore
“ humbly implore his pardon and forgiveness,
“ and that my sinful soul may be washed from
“ my sins in the blood of sprinkling, that pre-
“ cious blood shed by my Redeemer, which
“ speaks better things than the blood of Abel:
“ and having the promises from the word of
“ God, and his own oath, that whenever a sin-
“ ner truly repents, and turns to him, he is

“ willing

“ willing to receive and forgive him, herein is
“ the only hope and comfort of my departing.
“ I likewise most humbly beg the pardon of her
“ most gracious Majesty Queen Anne (whom
“ God bless) and I publicly ask pardon of the
“ widow of the deceased Mr. Lloyd, as I have
“ done already, by a letter which I have left
“ unsealed with Mr. Rup, Minister of the Sa-
“ voy, &c. to send it to her, hoping she will
“ (as a Christian) forgive me, as we all hope
“ for mercy and forgiveness from God, through
“ the blood of Christ. In like manner I ask
“ pardon of my dear wife, who has been many
“ ways injured by this sad occasion ; and I fin-
“ cerely declare, that I am fully satisfied of her
“ innocence, and that I was jealous without a
“ cause ; and I do not in any respect ascribe to
“ her the cause of my misfortune. I truly love
“ her, and assure the world that I have never
“ been married to any other woman ; and I
“ pray heartily for her prosperity and happiness
“ both of soul and body.” Lastly, “ I desire
“ all good people for God’s sake, earnestly to
“ pray for the salvation of my poor soul ; and
“ I exhort all to take warning by my said mis-
“ fortunes, that they would not give way to
“ jealousy, anger, revenge, or such like pas-
“ sions ; but resist the temptations of the devil,
“ the world, and the flesh, with constant and
“ devout prayers to God, and forgive their ene-
“ mies, and pray for them. All which I
“ heartily and sincerely do, as I hope God will
“ forgive me for Christ’s sake.”

After Mr. Lowen had written this his last speech, which he delivered to me at the place of execution, he had the great comfort to receive

100 *Trial of JOHN HERMAN BRIAN,*

an answer to his letter therein mentioned, in which Mrs. Lloyd shewed so much christian charity, as to signify to him, “ That she “ forgave him, and prayed that God would “ forgive him also, and have mercy upon his “ soul.”

*The Life, Trial, and obdurate Behaviour of
JOHN HERMAN BRIAN, condemned for
robbing and burning the House of Peter
Persode, Esq.*

JOHN HERMAN BRIAN, was indicted at the Sessions-house in the Old Bailey, Oct. 16, 1707, for burning and consuming the Mansion-house of Peter Persode, Esq. in St. James's street, Westminster.

He was likewise indicted a second time for breaking open the said house about 3 o'clock, on the day above-mentioned, and taking from thence a gold tweezer-case and chain, value 50l. a gold watch, seventeen guineas, and other goods of value.

Mr. Persode deposed, that the prisoner had been his servant for the space of two months, and was discharged from his service the Monday before the fact was committed, and that the Wednesday following, about ten o'clock at night, he left all his doors and windows fast.

Mrs. Persode deposed, that when she went to bed, she locked up her tweezer-case, watch, and other thing; and that about three o'clock in the morning, she awaking, smelt a strong smell

smell of smoak ; and getting up, went out of her chamber, and found a lighted flambeau in the passage, which had burnt the boards ; that then she opened the door of a parlour which was full of smoak, and immediately the room was all on fire, which gushed out of the stairs, and raged with such fury that the house was consumed in a quarter of an hour, they not being able to save any of their goods.

A tub-woman deposed, that going by early in the morning, she observed the house full of smoak, and knocked at the gate, but could make nobody in the house hear ; that at the same time she saw a man come over the wall, who said to her, " D----n you, are you drunk ? " " what do you here knocking at people's doors " at this time of the day ? " and then went off ; but she could not swear positively that the prisoner was the person.

Mr. Stevenfon and Mr. Acton, Goldsmiths, deposed, that the prisoner offered to sell the tweezer-case to them, and asked eight pounds for it, which gave them reason to suspect he had stole it, and thereupon stopped it, but the prisoner went away, and upon enquiry they found it to be Mr. Perfode's property : that afterwards he coming again to demand the goods, they seized him, and on searching him found two pistols and a dagger about him, with which they were informed he designed to pistol or stab them, if they refused to return the tweezer-case.

Other evidences deposed, that the prisoner when he went from the prosecutor's took a lodg-ing at a Frenchman's house near St. Anne's,

but was observed to be from his lodging the night the facts were committed, and that he left his lodgings at 12 o'clock the next day, and took another in Spital-fields, at one Mr. de la Roches; that he brought with him there, a box, a trunk, and a bundle sealed with three seals, and that when they were searched there were found in them linen and other things that were Mr. Persode's. That when the prisoner was sent to Newgate, being narrowly searched, a purse with seventeen guineas was found tied up tight and hid under his privities; and that the prisoner on the 31st of August had sold his pistols and a fowling peice, which were proved to be the prosecutor's, they being produced in court, and sworn to by him.

The prisoner denied the facts, and said he bought the goods of a strange man, but could give no proof of it, nor where he was the night the fact was committed; whereupon the jury found him guilty of both indictments.

He said he was about twenty-four years of age, born of honest parents at Dully a village in the bailiwick of Morge, in the canton of Switzerland; that he was brought up in the protestant religion, and ever continued in that profession: that when he removed out of his native place, he went to Genoa, where he liyed four or five years in the service of an honest gentleman, and afterwards travelled with another into Italy: that from thence he came into England, where (in the space of three years) he was retained in the service of divers honourable and good families, and last of all in Mr. Persode's, in which he continued two months, and was then dismissed for

for carelessness in his service, and peremptoriness in asking to be discharged. He said, that for the most part of his life he had been a valet or domestic: that he had once tried the art of Lapidary, but not liking it, he afterwards lived with a Joyner for about a twelvemonth; but that trade being too hard for him, he left that also and went to service, and lived by buying and selling of goods, but denied he ever meddled with any he could suppose were stolen, and would fain have persuaded the world, that he had bought the goods found in possession belonging to Mr. Persode, of two persons, one a soldier, whom he met in Moorfields who sold him the linen, gold watch, and tweezer; and the other a seaman, whom he accidentally met on Tower-hill, and bought of him the two pistols, and a fowling-piece. But being asked who those persons were, answered, he never saw them before, nor knew where they were to be found. And yet he expressed great dissatisfaction at the proceeding against him, and thought much of being found guilty, though he could alledge nothing that was available to his justification, nor could forbear his unworthy reflections on the prosecutor, witnesses, and justices. There was no admonition or exhortation, no argument fetched from scripture or reason, no representation of a future state, of endless bliss or eternal misery that could awake him to a due consideration of what he ought to do before he left this world. Some worthy French Divines, who had the charity to visit him in Newgate, found him and left him in this unaccountable obstinacy, and uncharitable temper; protesting he was innocent of the thing he

he was condemned for ; and in this protestation of his innocence he continued to the very last. All the time he was under condemnation he seemed to mind nothing more than to make his escape, by unscrewing and filing off his irons at several times. And when he was told he should think of something else and not spend in vain contrivances the few and precious moments he had to live here, but should carefully employ them in preparing for eternity, he only answered, " That life was sweet, and that any other man as well as himself, would endeavour to save it if he could."

At the place of execution, says the Ordinary, I pressed him all I could, to make an ingenuous confession, to clear his conscience, to give glory to God, to satisfy the world, to consider, that now he was upon the brink of eternity. Instead of giving me that full attention which so great a matter required, he turned his eyes towards some people in a house at a little distance, and reflected on them ; while at the same time, I was labouring to persuade him rather to look upon the ruins of that house over against him, which he had burnt, that the sight thereof might revive in him the memory of his crimes, and raise in his heart a just abhorrence, and force him to a sincere acknowledgment of them.

At this discourse he shewed himself very uneasy, and would by no means own his guilt, though as plain as the sun then shining upon us. I made him pray after me. " That God would please to touch his heartened heart, and melt and soften it into contrition, confession and true repentance." I desired him

to rehearse the Apostle's creed, and sing with me some penitential psalm, which he did. Here I recommended him to God for his grace to convert his heart and save his soul. And exhorted him over and over again, "not to go out " of the world with a lie in his mouth, but lay " all things open, and be reconciled to God " through Jesus Christ. He said (but I believe untruly) that he saw some persons there, laughing at his calamity.

Having spent much time, and used all the endeavours I could, to turn him the right way, I left him, with my last advice, to take care how he died in his sins, by his stubbornness and obstinate denial of what he was so justly, and on such plain evidence, condemned for. Then I withdrew, and (after some small time allowed him for his private devotions) he was turned off, without confessing any thing.

He was executed in St. James's street, near St. James's house, Westminster; and hanged in chains at Acton Gravel-pits, October 24, 1707.

Memoirs of the Life, Conduct, and Behaviour of WILLIAM GREEG, executed for holding a Correspondence with the Queen's Enemies.

THE account of this criminal, and the treasonable affair of which he was convicted, is thus related by bishop Burnet.

" At

" At this time, says the Bishop, two discoveries were made very unlucky for Mr. Harley: Tallard wrote often to Chamillard, but he sent the letters open to the secretary's office to be perused and sealed up, and so to be conveyed by the way of Holland. These were opened upon some suspicion in Holland, and it appeared that one in the secretary's office put letters in them, in which, as he offered his service to the church of France and St. Germains, so he gave an account of all transactions here. In one of these letters he sent a copy of the letter that the Queen was to write in her own hand to the Emperor: and he marked what parts were drawn by the secretary, and what additions were made to it by the lord treasurer. This was the letter by which the Queen pressed the sending of Prince Eugene into Spain; and this, if not interrupted, would have been at Versailles many days before it could reach Vienna.

He who sent this, wrote, that by this they might see what service he could do them, if well encouraged. All this was sent over to the Duke of Marlborough; and on search it was found to be wrote by one William Gregg, a clerk, whom Harley had not only entertained, but had taken into a particular confidence, without enquiring into the former part of his life; for he was a vicious and necessitous person who had been secretary to the Queen's envoy in Denmark, but was dismissed by him for those his ill qualities. Harley had made use of him to get him intelligence, and he came to trust him with the perusal and sealing up the letters, which

which the French prisoners here in England sent over to France, and by that means he got into the method of fending intelligence thither. He, when seized on, either upon remorse, or hopes of pardon, confessed all, and signed his confession; upon that he was tried, and pleading guilty, was condemned as a traitor, for corresponding with the Queen's enemies.

"At the same time Väliere and Bara, whom Harley had employed as his spies to go over to Calais, under the pretence of bringing him intelligence, were informed against, as spies employed by France to get intelligence from England, who carried over many letters to Calais and Bulloign, and, as was believed, gave such information of our trade and convoys, that, by their means, we had made our great losses at sea. They were often complained of upon suspicion, but they were always protected by Harley; yet the presumptions against them were so violent, that they were at last seized, and brought up prisoners."

This affair was so well improved by the whigs, that Mr. Harley was obliged to resign, and his enemies, in their great charity, were resolved to find out evidence enough to search his life. With this view the House of Lords ordered a committee to examine Gregg, and the other prisoners, who were very assiduous in the discharge of their commission, as the Reader will perceive from the following account, extracted from the same right reverend author.

The Lords who were appointed to examine Gregg, could not find out much by him; he had but newly begun his design of betraying secrets,

secrets, and he had no associates with him in it. He told them, that all the papers of state lay so carelessly about the office, that every one belonging to it, even the door-keepers, might have read them all.

Harley's custom was, to come to office late on post night, and after he had given his orders, and wrote his letter, he usually went away, and left all to be copied out when he was gone. By that means he came to see every thing; in particular, the Queen's letter to the Emperor. He said, he knew the design on Toulon in May last, but he did not discover it, for he had not entered on his ill practices till October. This was all he could say."

" In the examination of Valiere and Bara, and of many others who lived about Dover, and were employed by them, a discovery was made of a constant intercourse they were in with Calais, under Harley's protection. They often went over with boats full of wool, and brought back brandy, though both the import and export were severely prohibited. They, and those belonging to the boats carried over by them, were well treated on the French side at the governor's house, or at the commissary's; they were kept there till their letters were sent to Paris, and till returns could be brought back, and were all the while upon free cost. The order that was constantly given them was, that if an English or Dutch ship came up with them, they should cast their letters into the sea, but that they should not do it when French ships came up with them; so they were looked on by all on that coast, as the spies of France. They used

used to get what information they could, both of Merchant-ships, and of ships of war that lay in the Downs, and upon that they usually went over, and it happened soon after that some of those ships were taken. These men, as they were Papists, so they behaved themselves insolently, and boasted much of their power and credit."

"Complaints had often been made of them, but they were always protected, nor did it appear that they ever brought any information of importance to Harley, but one, when, according to what they swore, they told him, that Fourbin was gone from Dunkirk to lie in wait for the Russia fleet; which proved to be true; he both went to watch for them, and took a great part of the fleet. Yet though this was the single piece of intelligence they ever brought, Harley took so little notice of it, that he gave no advertisement to the Admiralty concerning it. This particular excepted, they only brought over common news and the Paris Gazetteer. These examinations lasted for some weeks; when they were ended, a full report was made of them to the House of Lords, and they ordered the whole report, with all the examinations to be laid before the Queen, in an address, in which they represented the necessity of making Gregg a public example, upon which he was executed. He continued to clear other persons of any accession to his crimes, of which he seemed very sensible, and died much better than he had lived."

As the Ordinary's account of Mr. Gregg is very short and superficial, we shall not trouble the Reader with it; but, instead thereof, give the copy of a paper which Gregg delivered to

110 Trial of WILLIAM GREGG,

the sheriffs of London and Middlesex, at the place of execution.

The crime I am now justly to suffer for having made a great noise in the world, a paper of more than ordinary length will be expected from the criminal; who therefore takes this last opportunity to profess his utter abhorrence, and sincere repentance of all his sins against God, and the heinous crime committed against the Queen, whose forgiveness I most humbly implore; as I shall heartily pray for her Majesty's long life and happy reign over her united people, and success against her enemies, with my parting breath.

This being all the satisfaction I can possibly make her injured Majesty; I declare, in the next place, the reparation I would make, were it in my power, to those of her Majesty's subjects I have wronged in any kind; and particularly the Right Honourable Robert Harley, Esq. whose pardon I heartily beg, for basely betraying my trust; which declaration, though of itself sufficient to clear the said gentleman, yet for the sake of those, whom it was my misfortune not to be able to satisfy in my life-time, I do sacredly protest, that as I shall answer it before the judgment-seat of Christ, the gentleman aforesaid was not privy to my writing to France, directly or indirectly; neither was I, his unworthy clerk, any ways accessory to the miscarriage before Toulon, nor the losses by sea; all which happened before the first of my letters which was wrote the 24th of October 1707.

As for my creditors, as I am in no condition to satisfy them, so I earnestly beg they would for-

for conspiring against the Queen. III

forgive me ; and I pray to God to make up their losses to them seven-fold.

For my own part, I do freely forgive all men, and die in perfect charity with them ; not without humble hopes of finding forgiveness, through the merits of Jesus Christ, with God, who, in mercy, touched my conscience so powerfully from the beginning, as to prevent my prostituting the same to save my life ; for which instance of his love, to be preferred before life itself, I bless and magnify his holy name, with unspeakable joy and comfort at my death ; nothing near so ignominious as would have been such a life.

After this confession, the duty of a dying man leads me to profess the religion in which I was brought up, and do now die, which is the Protestant. The scandal given whereunto, by my enormous practices, cannot be better taken away than by my publishing to the world my hearty sorrow for those sensual pleasures which have proved my bane. Wherefore let all that shall read this poor account, take warning by me, to shun the like youthful lusts ; to which, whoever gives up himself, can't tell how far they may, when indulged, carry him ; even to the committing such crimes as he thought himself incapable of, some time a-day : of which sad truth I, to my woeful experience, am a melancholy instance : but at the same time, I appeal to the great God, before whom I am now going to appear, that notwithstanding all the pains to make me out an old offender, by fastening on me the crime of counterfeiting the current coin ; this is the first fault that I ever ventured upon, which was not out of any zeal for the Pretender, whom I not only disown at my death, but so-

112 *Trial of JOHN MORGRIDGE,*

Ilemnly declare, that in all my life, I never thought he had any right to these realms, how foolishly soever I may have rendered myself obnoxious in this particular. But the only motive of my mad undertaking, was money ; of which I never received any on account of the ship-past, though I have met with the more just reward of such secret services intended by

W. GREGG.

He was executed at Tyburn, April 28, 1708.

*The Trial, Confession, and Behaviour of
JOHN MORGRIDGE, condemned for the
Murder of Lieutenant Cope.*

JOHN MORGRIDGE was indicted at the Old Bailey July 5, 1706, for the Murder of William Cope, Gent.

The true state of the case, and mattter of fact, as appeared by the evidence given at his trial, was this: Mr. Cope having got a Lieutenant's commission, invited some Captains and other gentlemen to dine with him at the Dolphin tavern in Tower-street, on the 17th of June 1706. One of these gentlemen that were invited, took Mr. Morgridge with him thither, assuring him, that he should be as welcome to the Lieutenant as any of the company. Upon this he went, and after dinner was over and paid for by Mr. Cope, they all staid a-while and had more wine, and each man paid half a crown for his club, and then they arose, and most of them went away ; but Mr. Morgridge,

with some of the company, being invited by Mr. Cope to the Corp de Garde, they went along with him, and called for wine as soon as they came in. Two bottles were accordingly brought in, and as they were drinking, a coach came to the Guard-room door, with a woman in it, of no modest behaviour, who asked for Capt. Cope. This Captain, as she called him, presently came to the coach, with Mr. Morgridge, and brought her into the Guard-room; where, having been a little while, she cried, "Who shall pay for my coach?" Mr. Morgridge said, he would; and so discharged it. Then he offered to salute her, but she scornfully rejected him, and gave him ill words, which he returned in the like kind. The Lieutenant took the woman's part, and the quarrel increased, and rose to a very great height, both being very much in drink, and therefore in a raging passion, and not in a condition to consider, that they were contending about a lewd woman, they threw the bottles at each other's head; and in that heat Mr. Morgridge drew his sword, and gave the Lieutenant a thrust, of which he died immediately.

Upon which he was tried at the Old Bailey; the Jury acquitted him on the statute of Stabbing, and brought in their verdict Special. Some time after this, the Judges sat upon it at the Queen's Bench Bar, and found him guilty of wilful murder. But in the mean time, he making his escape out of the Marshalsea, sentence could not be executed upon him till he was taken again. He went beyond Sea, and being taken at Ghent in Flanders, was brought to England, and received sentence of death the 21st of April, 1708.

He

He owned the justness of his sentence, though he declared he had no premeditated malice against that gentleman who he so unfortunately killed. He said, he heartily repented of it, and prayed that God would wash away the stain, and deliver him from the guilt of that blood which he had so shed. He owned that he had been a great sinner, but was sorry he had any ways offended God and man, and begged pardon of both. He said, he hoped God would shew him favour in another world, because he was always grieving for his sins, and particularly for this, ever since he made his escape; and though he had no apprehension of his being brought to condemnation here for it, it was continually before him, and the remembrance of it was grievous to him. He made strong resolutions to live otherwise, and was always praying to God to pardon him, and to keep him for the future. He acknowledged the justice of God that had overtaken him, and would not suffer him to live long unpunished for this heinous crime. He declared his being in charity with all the world, even with those who had brought him to this his punishment, and prayed for the conversion of all wicked persons, desiring they would take warning by his fall. He said he was above forty years of age, born at Canterbury of good parents, and brought up in the church of England; that both his father and ancestors had had the honour to serve the crown for above 200 years past, and that himself was, for a considerable time, Kettle Drummer to the first troop of Guards, and was going into a commission when this melancholy accident happened.

He was executed at Tyburn the 28th of April 1708. The

*The Trial of Sir RICHARD BLACKHAM,
for counterfeiting Dutch Skillings.*

SIR Richard Blackham, Bart. in the parish of St. Pancras, in the county of Middlesex, was indicted at the Old Bailey, for counterfeiting a Foreign coin called Dutch Skillings, on the 16th of November 1716.

One Bennison deposed, that Mr. Angel bespoke of him two pair of flasks, and that he was paid for them by Sir Richard, ten shillings at one time, and ten shillings at another. Being asked who he delivered them to, he said, to Sir Richard's Lady. That when he went to receive the last ten shillings at Sir Richard's house at Keントish town, he was persuaded by Sir Richard to stay there all night to help them in the morning: That on the next morning, Mr. Angel and he got up, and went to work in making those shillings; Sir Richard was there, and ordered the fire himself, and he saw several made while he was there.

Mr. Angel deposed, that Sir Richard sent for him, and told him, he heard he could make a very fine white metal; Angel answered, it was very good for buckles. Sir Richard asked him, whether it would not make Dutch Skillings? He said he could not tell; but Sir Richard said it would do very well. That then he replied, but is it no crime to make them? Sir Richard said, I believe not. He replied again, Sir, you living in the midst of the law, can easily ask Council. The next time he saw him, he told him there was no harm in it, and he did not care if the Lord Mayor, and Court of Aldermen saw

saw him at it. That Sir Richard proffered him ten pounds to live at Kentish-town with him as a more convenient place for the purpose. Accordingly he removed with his family thither; where he several times with Sir Richard did practice the counterfeiting of Dutch Skillings. Sir Richard was always there, managing the fire and giving directions in working.

The Constable deposed, that having searched Sir Richard's chambers in the Temple, he found in two drawers in a scrutore, two parcels of counterfeit Skillings; and in the bottom of a box of writings, another parcel of about an hundred, which he produced in court; and in searching Sir Richard, found a pocket pistol about him loaded with powder and ball; and asking Sir Richard why he carried it about him, he replied, he did it for fear of a surprise.

Another evidence deposed, that he was in the room with the Constable, when those Skillings were found in his lodgings, he caused an assay to be made upon them, and found they had no silver in them.

Two other evidences deposed, that they saw Sir Richard several times assisting and ordering the matters in making the counterfeit Dutch Skillings.

Sir Richard called divers people to invalidate the evidence of Angel; but the Court asking them questions, they appeared to be most of them sollicitors for the prisoner, and that they had endeavoured to persuade Angel not to appear against the prisoner, and offered him a reward if he would take the fact upon himself.

Sir Richard made a long defence for himself, but little to the purpose. The evidence against him

him being very full, the Jury found him guilty upon the statute of the 24th of Elizabeth, and he was sentenced to forfeit all his goods, chattels, lands and tenements, and to remain in prison during his life.

*The Trial and Confession of ALICE GRAY,
for assisting in a Rape.*

A LICE GRAY, of the parish of St. Giles in the Fields, was indicted at the Old Bailey, the 25th of April 1707, for aiding and assisting John, otherwise Thomas Smith, in the committing a rape on the body of Catherine Masters, of the age of ten years.

The girl deposed, that Alice Gray and she lodged together, and that the night the fact was committed, she went to bed about Eight o'clock, and about Eleven the prisoner came home, and a man with her; that being sleepy she did not perceive when Alice Gray came to bed; but awaking about Two o'clock in the morning, she found a man in bed with them; that then she endeavoured to get away, but Alice Gray pulled her back, and held her down in the bed, and stopped her mouth that she could not cry out, while the man gained the perfect knowledge of her body.

Other evidences deposed, that the girl the next morning acquainted them how she had been abused, and inspecting her body, found that a man had been with her, and given her the pox. The fact being plainly proved, the Jury found her guilty, and she received sentence of death.

While

While under condemnation, she gave the following account of herself: That she was Thirty-two years of age, born at Andover in Hampshire; that she had all along worked hard for her livelihood; that she had lived several years both a wife and a widow, in the parish of St. Clement Danes, and used to get her living by making up soldier's cloathes, and going to washing and scouring, and nursing sick people. She denied the fact, and said she was never guilty of any thing like it; and not without much urgency was brought to own, that there was a man in the room that night when the fact was said to have been committed; that he lay across the feet of the bed, but never offered to force or lie with the girl; and that the man was a stranger to her, and she knew not what became of him afterwards.

She was executed at Tyburn, May 2, 1707.

*The Trial, Exploits, and Confession of
WILLIAM ELBY, otherwise DUNN, con-
victed of House-breaking and Murder.*

WILLIAM ELBY was indicted at the sessions in the Old Bailey, for breaking the house of Mr. James Barry at Fulham, August 2, 1707, with an intent to rob it; and likewise for the murder of Nicholas Hatfield, by giving him one mortal wound with a rapier near the left pap, of which he died soon after.

The evidence deposed, that Mr. Barry hearing a noise about his house between twelve and two in the morning, he got up with his wife and

and man, Nicholas Hatfield, went down stairs, and found a window broke open, and espied two men without, at about five yards distance, one of whom was the prisoner. Whereupon they ran immediately up stairs for arms, but Hatfield stepping into the kitchen, was met by Elby, who drove him into the pantry, and gave him a stab in the breast, of which he died twelve hours after.

In the scuffle between Elby and Hatfield, one of the thieves fired a pistol to disengage them, which happened to wound Elby in the leg, and a button was found in the pantry, which belonged to Elby's coat, also a bloody sword was found under a hay-eock, and a receipt that had been given Mr. Barry for money paid. The prisoner, who had little to say in his defence, was found guilty of the fact, and received sentence accordingly, upon which he was so impious as to say, "G---d d----n you all."

The Ordinary's account of him is as follows. He owned he was guilty of the burglary, but would not confess the murder, neither would he discover his accomplices, or any other facts he had committed. And in this obstinacy he all along persisted; and was so peremptory as to say, that if any person should ask him any such questions again, he would knock them down. Upon which I told him I was very sorry to see him in that furious temper, very unbecoming a man that was upon his everlasting state; but I hoped he would consider things better, and give me leave to ask him (for I would certainly do it, whatever came on't) such questions as were fit to be resolved for the good of mankind, and for the clearing of his conscience before he died.

But

But he said, he would resolve none ; for he intended to die in charity with all the world ; which he could not do, if he brought any into trouble. To this I answered, he was highly mistaken, and that his discovering his companions in wickedness, could not be an evidence at law against them, and could do them no harm, but possibly a great deal of good, and would be a charitable deed to them ; for by this means they might be reformed, and so prevent their coming under the same condemnation with him. And that such a discovery as he could and ought to make of those wicked persons who had been concerned wrth him, and those robberies and unjust actions he had committed, would dispose him to die in peace with God, and his own conscience, and in charity with all men, and especially with those he had wronged, who ought to receive from him, at least the satisfaction of a sincere acknowledgement of the injuries he had done them, either by himself, or in conjunction with others. He gave him the ear to all this, but said he would not come to particulars ; and that in general he was willing to confess that he had been very wicked, and that he had committed all manner of sins whatsoever, that he would confess them to God alone, and ask his pardon for them. This was no small grief to me, to see a man whom I endeavoured to instruct and reform, and thereby bring to God thus desperately fly from him, and sink himself deeper and deeper into error and destruction.

When I told him he did very ill in cursing the whole Bench, as he did at the Old Bailey, and that he should be now ashamed and sorry for it, he seemed unconcerned ; neither did he express

much grief for any thing he had done ; saying, " he was to answer with the loss of his life for all his faults ; and why should he be grieved for them, since he must, and was willing to die ?" I perceived he would be thought not to be afraid of death ; but I could not be satisfied with his manner of preparing for it. His pride and self-conceitedness were more prevalent with him than any arguments from reason and religion that could be offered him. After much discourse and time spent with him both in public and private, he at last seemed to relent a little, and gave the following account of his past sinful life, and the present state he was now in.

He said he was about 32 years of age, born at Deptford, of very honest parents, who gave him good education, and bound him to a block-maker in Rotherhithe, with whom he served his apprenticeship ; but was no sooner out of his time, than instead of setting up, or working for himself, he went on rambling abroad, and got into bad company, who debauched him, and enticed him into those sins, which by degrees brought him to this shameful and untimely end. He said he had sometimes served at sea in her Majesty's navy, and sometimes at land in the second regiment of foot-guards ; and confessed he had done a great many ill things (which he would not particularize) and had formerly received both the law and mercy ; which, to his sorrow, he had not (as he ought) improved into amendment. Lastly, when he was near the time of his death, he acknowledged his guilt, though not wholly, yet in some measure ; and

prayed that God would forgive both that, and all other his crimes.

At the place of execution, viz. the town of Fulham, I attended him for the last time, and with pressing exhortations endeavoured to persuade him to the doing of what he could to save his soul. He told me, that (as he had done before) he desired my prayers, and no questions to be asked, and shewed himself more and more positive in refusing to satisfy the world, who had a hand in the burglary and murder for which he was now to die. He said, he would make no discovery ; only he owned again his being guilty of the burglary, but not of the murder, meaning (as he expressed it) that he had not actually committed it, but another man with him had. But who that man was, or whether there were no more with him at that time, he would not at all resolve ; and he grew very angry at being asked such questions, which, he said, " put all good things out of his head, " " I had put in it before ;" telling me withal, that he had desired me this morning at Newgate, not to trouble him with asking of questions at the place of execution, but only to pray by him ; I owned he had so, but I told him I took it to be my indispensible duty to God, to his soul, and to the world, not to comply with his desires herein, and I was sorry he would not take such directions as tended to his spiritual and eternal good.

Here I shewed him a letter, which was delivered to me as I was on my way to Fulham ; desiring him to tell me whether it came from him ; he told me it did. Then I asked him

who

who stole the 250l. in money, a gold watch, and other goods therein mentioned ; he answered, " it was himself ;" upon which I asked him farther who were concerned with him in that robbery ? he said nobody. [The copy of which letter is at the close of this account.]

I again earnestly prayed him not to deny this murder, if he had actually committed it, and to consider, that though he had not done it with his own hand, yet he was certainly guilty of it ; for he owned himself to be then in the company of him that killed Mr. Barry's gardener. And therefore he must repent for shedding innocent blood ; and he could not with a safe conscience go out of the world without discovering the party who committed this bloody fact. He gave me this answer, " That he would never do it." I prayed for him, and he seemed outwardly to join with me, both in prayer, and in the penitential psalms that were sung. Then I asked him, whether he was not desirous that the worthy Minister of the parish should come to him, which I questioned not but he would charitably do if he was sent for. He seemed to be indifferent about it. I asked him again ; and then he said, he should be glad of his prayers, but would by no means have any further questions put to him. Mr. Barry, the Rector of Fulham came to him, and made him a most excellent exhortation, shewing his great concern for his soul, which he apprehended to be in great danger. He thereupon pressed him to an open confession, as a means by which he might be saved. Several proper things he laid to his consideration, and then retired. After this, this miserable malefactor, who still remained in his obstinacy,

would not suffer me to do any thing more here, but pray and sing psalms, which I did. When his cap was put over his face, he was told he should have what time he pleased for his private devotion ; he said he desired no more than to say the Lord's Prayer, which he did, and added (as the cart was drawing away) " Lord receive my " soul.

The Copy of the Letter abovementioned.

S I R,

" Y O U may remember in May last was two
 " years, your house was broke open, and
 " there was lost to the value of 250l. in money,
 " in gold and silver, and some time before you
 " lost a woman's gold watch, and one other
 " watch, the outside case being tortoiseshell,
 " studded, and two pair of stockings ; and un-
 " derstanding you have been many times desi-
 " rous of knowing the person, this presents to
 " acquaint you, that if you will give yourself
 " the trouble of coming to Newgate (where I
 " am now a prisoner under sentence of death)
 " I believe you may be satisfied of the truth of
 " the same."

I am, Gentlemen,
 though a dying Person, yet
 your humble Servant,

Sept. 11, 1707. WILLIAM DUNN.
 from Newgate.

" Please, if thought requisite, to be as quick
 " as possible, since on Saturday morning next,
 " I shall make my Exit."

Direct for either of the partners that keep
 the Brewhouse at Execution Dock.

He was hung in chains at Fulham, Sept. 13. The

The Life and memorable Exploits of JACK HALL, convicted for Burglary.

JACK HALL, whose villainies had rendered him as noted as any land-pirate, and was the terror of the city, and suburbs of London, was born of mean parentage, in Bishops-head Court, in Gray's-Inn-Lane; and in his younger years followed the occupation of Chimney-sweeping, but soon quitted that smutty employment for a cleanlier trade, i. e. Filing a Cly, (picking pockets) in which he is reported to have had a very remarkable dexterity: but his art sometimes failing him, he was more than once apprehended, and the facts being plainly proved upon him, he was sent to Mill Doll, (to beat hemp in Bridewell) but getting out again he took to shop-lifting; and on January 1698, was convicted at the Old Bailey, for stealing a pair of shoes; for which he was ordered to Shove the Tumbler (whipt at the cart's tail): but having satisfied the law, and got out of Limbo, he altered his course of life; and not caring to do his work by day-light, he took to Milling of Kens, (house-breaking) and had not been long in that employment, before he was apprehended and convicted at the Old Bailey, for breaking the house of Jonathan Bretsil; and in January 1700, received sentence of death; but obtained a pardon, on condition to transport himself within six months, to some of the plantations; and accordingly he entered himself on ship-board: but not liking that way of living, he took the first opportunity

of leaving it, and got again amongst his old acquaintances ; and then went upon the other lay, taking Lobs, (portmanteaus, boxes, trunks, &c. from behind coaches) and being caught again in his roguery, was indicted at the Old Bailey Jan. 1702, upon three indictments : the first was for stealing ten Holland shirts, thirteen neckcloths, and other goods, the property of a person unknown ; the second for stealing a portmanteau trunk, a silk night-gown, a watch, five guineas, and other goods, the property of John Edwards ; the third, for stealing a trunk, five guineas, and divers goods, the property of Gilbert Cole

It appeared by the evidence, that the goods were sent to the Three Cups in Bread-street, in order to go to Bristol ; and the coach going out early in the morning, stopped in St. Giles's to take in two passengers. In the mean time, Jack Hall, and two of his accomplices, conveyed the goods from behind the coach ; and putting them into a Hackney coach, ordered the coachman to drive to Ratcliff-Highway ; where, stopping at an alehouse, two of them went out, leaving Jack Hall with the goods in the coach. The landlord having more honesty than his guests, suspecting them, gave notice to a headborough, who immediately sent a beadle ; whom Jack espying, bid the coachman drive down Old Gravel-lane ; but being pursued, he was taken, sent to Newgate, tried and convicted, burnt in the cheek, and sent to Bridewell for two years. But getting out from that unpleasant mansion, he fell in with Stephen Bunce, Dick Low, &c. and taking a turn to Hackney, and in the dead time of the night, having

having broke into a Baker's house, the journeymen and apprentices being up, and at work, they took them upon a surprize, tied them neck and heels, and threw them into the kneading trough ; and one of them standing over them with a sword, swore he would cut off their heads, if they offered to stir or budge. In the mean time the other two got up stairs, and bound and gagged the master and mistress. But having ransacked the chamber, and not finding what they expected, they ungagg'd the old man that he might tell them where the money lay : but he not being very ready to do it, Jack Hall took a young child, the old folk's granddaughter, swearing he would thrust her into the oven, if he did not immediately direct them to his money. The old man, scared at this menace, to avoid such a calamity, discovered where his money lay, which being about seventy pounds, they went away pretty well satisfied, leaving them to shift for themselves. But this money not lasting very long, they went to their old trade ; for in July 1704, the house of Francis Saunders in St. James's, having been broke open, it appeared, that he being a chairman, had got information that the robbery had been committed by Jack Hall, King, and Ellis, and as he was waiting at St. James's about 3 o'clock in the morning, espied the prisoners, whom he supposed were out upon the same design ; and giving notice to the watch, they were pursued, and Hall fired a pistol at the watchman but missed him ; but the second firing another at him, shot him in the thigh ; Hall, however, got away, but one of them was taken, and for want of evidence was acquitted.

July, 1705, he was apprehended again, and sent to his old quarters at Newgate, for breaking the house of Richard Bartholomew. But his name being too well known at the Old Bailey, he was now terribly afraid of the Nubbing Cheat (the gallows) and therefore altered it, and was tried by the name of Low Price. It appeared by the evidence, that one Robert Roman, who had been tried and convicted for the same fact, had owned that it was done by Jack Hall and himself; and there were other strong presumptive evidences beside; yet not being sufficient to convict him, he was acquitted for that time. Being again at liberty, he immediately betook himself to his old way of living, and after committing divers robberies, was again apprehended and indicted with Arthur Chambers, October, 1706, for stealing a handkerchief from Hannah Glub; but there being a deficiency in the evidence, he was again acquitted. Being soon apprehended again, for a fact he thought he was in imminent danger to swing for, in order to spin out the thread of his life a little longer, he got himself admitted an Evidence, and swore against Arthur Chambers, for breaking the house of Thomas Green, Dec. 1706, And also against Thomas Bell, for breaking the house of Robert Murdon, and stealing 110l. in money, a watch, and other valuables; as likewise against Zachary Fitch, for breaking the house of Jacob Adolph, at Hackney, and stealing plate and jewels, to the value of 500l. and also against some others of his acquaintance.

Having thus obtained a reprieve, and wiped off his old scores, he was no sooner out of custody but

but he immediately began a-new, and, after the commission of divers robberies, was apprehended again, and tried, together with Richard Low and Stephen Bunce, for breaking the dwelling-house of Capt. John Guyon, in the night-time, Nov. 25, 1707, and stealing thence plate and goods to a considerable value.

Mrs. Guyon deposed, that about two o'clock in the morning, she hearing a noise, and supposing there were thieves in the house, got up and alarmed the neighbours, and that on a sudden three men rushed into the room, two of whom came up to her, and said, "D---n you, "deliver your money," and gave her a blow on the face, and bid her go to bed; that she replied, she had none there, but what she had was in the next room; that they then went there, and she locked the door upon them.

Being asked if she knew any of them, she replied, that the person who struck her was a tall man, much of the stature of Low; but she could nor swear to any of their faces, she seeing them by no other light than that of the moon.

The maid confirmed her mistress's evidence, adding, that Jack Hall, holding a candle in his hand, and a pistol at her breast, gave her an opportunity of taking a perfect knowledge of his face; so that she swore positively against Hall. And one Briggs, a boy of eleven years of age, deposed, that he being at the sign of the Green Man near Billingsgate, six men came to his father's house about four o'clock that morning; and that he being near, had the opportunity of seeing and hearing what passed between them, which was as follows, viz. That one

one of them pulled a dram-cup out of his pocket, and another a handkerchief; and that they had likewise a waistcoat trimmed with silver, head-dresses with knots, which agreed exactly with those the prosecutor had lost; and that he heard Stephen Bunce say, we have made a pretty good hand of it to-night; and that Jack Hall replied, he hoped they would make a better hand of it to-morrow night. The boy being asked by the Court, how he could distinguish one from the other? replied, that when they spoke aloud, they called one another brother Stitch, but when they spoke softly, they called one another by their proper names; and that before they went away, they made an appointment to meet at the two Fighting-cocks in Bunhill-fields, between five and six o'clock that night; and that he acquainting his father with what he had seen and heard, he suspected them to be ill persons, and acquainting some stout men with it, they agreed to go and apprehend them. They went to the place; but not finding them, as they were going away, met them as they were going thither, and endeavouring to seize them, the prisoners fired several pistols at them, but at length apprehended them.

Dick Low, knowing he was likely to be cast upon another indictment for breaking the house of Jacob Curtis, together with Davis and Montizano, took the fact upon himself, to excuse the other two; but the evidence being clear, and they all known to be notorious offenders, the Jury found them all guilty of the indictment.

Being under sentence of death, Jack Hall confessed, that within the space of three years

last past, he had committed a great many robberies, and some of them very considerable, in and about London; but he would not come to particulars, saying, he had forgot them in a great measure, and it would signify nothing to any person to know every ill thing he had done; for he could make no other amends to the persons he had wronged, than to ask their pardon; that he had been a very ill liver; that idleness and gaming had brought him to the commission of those facts; and that he had been guilty of all manner of sins, but that of murder. He likewise said, that when of late he had some thoughts of leaving off thieving, he found his inclinations were still that way. He also expressed himself as if he was then willing to die, desiring nothing in this world, but that God of his infinite mercy would forgive whatever he had done amiss, and dispose him to die well, that he might avoid the eternal condemnation he had deserved: but if he were to live his life over again, he hoped he should be wiser and better.

He was executed at Tyburn in the 32d year of his age, the 17th of December 1707, with Joseph Montizano, Stephen Bunce, Dick Low, &c.

Hall being a person of some eminence in his way, a certain poetaster honoured his memory with the following Elegy:

An ELEGY on JACK HALL, the Chimney-sweeper.

*At last thy roguish reign is ended,
And thou deservedly suspended:*

Where

Where art thou now, thou reprobate,
 Who jestedst at a future state,
 And said, the place the Devils kept,
 Was sooty, wanted to be swept ?
 And they, consulting, did agree
 To send express away for thee :
 And so thou'rt gone the Tyburn road,
 The nearest way to their abode.
 But yet 'tis thought that there are store
 Of thy fly trade gone there before,
 Witness the bacon, beef, and tongue,
 Which in the chimnies reezing hung,
 Till by thy tribe were swept away,
 For which they now severely pay.
 Methinks I see the sulph'rous shore,
 Where clouds of thieves sent there before,
 Thee welcome give with dismal roar. }
 Didst think the fiends there would be civil,
 Because they're known to love what's evil ?
 Make but this outside like appear,
 Thy intellects already are :
 So put thy sweeping garment on,
 'Twill make each Devil think thee one ;
 Or cause this Proverb, after all,
 Ha ! like to like, says the Devil to Hall.
 If ev'ry rogue throughout the nation,
 Should die like Hall, by suffocation,
 Some now in chambers would in carts
 At Triple-tree receive deserts ;
 Lawyers, physicians, courtiers, jaylors,
 Would march in troops, and all the taylors ;
 Nay, I could mention too a Lord,
 But that Scan---Mag---ay, that's the word :
 Some hemp should likewise be commixt,
 For many who pervert the text,

And

V

And, what is worse than thieves can do,
 Cheat you of soul and money too ;
 Lead scandalous and wicked lives,
 And, like Bell-swagger, ride your wives,
 The benefit of clergy see,
 When some poor rogues are at the tree,
 When, 'cause they cannot read a verse,
 Are made to sing it, and that's worse ;
 Which, by the bye, is charming singing,
 They shake so well, remember swinging ;
 Besides, observe the fatal line,
 Makes each exactly stop in time ;
 O foolish custom ! (as one said)
 For sinners, when they're almost dead,
 To have such crotchetts in their head.
 If to this Elegy a proper tune is,
 Pray bowl it forth with Finis Funis.

{

E P I T A P H.

Here lies Hall's clay,
 Thus swept away ;
 If bolt or key
 Oblig'd his stay
 At Judgment day,
 He'd make essay
 To get away :
 Be't as it may,
 I'd better say,
 Here lies Jack Hall,
 And that is all.

The Trial of JOHN BARNS, for Murder.

JOHN BARNS, of St. Paul's, Shadwell, was indicted at the Old Bailey, Oct. 15, 1708, for the murder of Ann Edgbrook, by giving her one mortal wound on the throat with a knife, the 19th of September preceding, of which she instantly died.

The evidence deposed, that the prisoner came to the deceased's house the 7th of September, and lay there that night; and that the next morning one Mrs. Vineyard, a lodger of the deceased's, went to London, and left the prisoner, the deceased, and a mantua-maker drinking together; and that she returned home about six at night, and knocked at the door, but could make nobody hear; that she then went to a neighbour's house, and came again at nine o'clock, at which time she found the door half open, and the prisoner a-bed upon the ground floor, who called out, and told her, her landlady was not at home; upon which she, with a little Girl, went to bed in a room above stairs, and left the door open, that the deceased might come in. That about eight o'clock the next morning she went down, and found the door fast shut, but the deceased was not to be found; that then she called in a neighbour, and went into the room where the prisoner lay, and found him lying upon his left side snoring and his right-hand out of bed and bloody, and that throwing down the bed-clothes they observed his throat to be cut, but the wound not dangerous; his shirt sleeves tucked up, and his arm wounded, but that sleeve which covered the wound was not

not cut; a bloody knife was found in the bed, and proved to be the deceased's; his breeches were found under the bed, and under them a pole-ax: that thereupon she and her neighbour suspecting the prisoner had murdered the deceased, searched the house, but could not find her; they then went into the yard to search for her, where they found her in a shed belonging to the house, with her throat cut from ear to ear, her stomach cut down throughout like a sheep, and her bowels and heart taken out and put into a tub; and that upon examining her head, a hole was discovered, which exactly fitted the blunt part of the pole-ax; a case knife that belonged to the deceased was likewise found under her. It did not appear that any of the deceased's goods were taken out of the house, and the door being fast in the morning, the murder could not be committed by any without doors.

The prisoner, in his defence, pleaded that he knew nothing of the murder; and being asked how his throat came to be cut? answered, that at about twelve at night a black man did it; and that himself was much in drink, and could not well remember how it came; but as he had no better defence to make, the Jury found him guilty of the murder.

Being under sentence of death, he gave the Ordinary the following account: That he was about forty-six years of age, born at Ostley, near Ipswich, in the county of Suffolk, by profession a seaman, and had served the crown several years at divers times in that capacity; but that his chief employment had been among the Colliers, in that trade between Newcastle

and London. He owned he was guilty of drunkenness, whoredom, and Sabbath-breaking, but of no other great sins, and utterly denied the fact for which he was condemned; and in this denial he persisted to the last; and being pressed by the Ordinary to confess his guilt, and not die with a lie in his mouth, he answered, "that he neither did commit the murder himself, nor knew who had."

He was executed at Tyburn the 27th of October, in company with Mary Elenor, for the murder of her bastard infant, by throwing it alive into the vault, as she confessed after sentence, and that she did then hear it cry, and thrust it down with a stick to smother it. And also with Agatha Ashbrook, who was executed for the murder of her female bastard infant, by strangling it with a piece of list, which was done on the same day that Mary Elenor murdered hers.

The Trial and Confession of GEORGE SKELTHORP, otherwise SKULTHORP, convicted of robbing on the Highway.

GEORGE SKELTHORP, otherwise SKULTHORP, was indicted at the Old Bailey, for assaulting William Hills upon the highway, and taking from him four shillings and six-pence, the 18th of February, 1708-9.

The prosecutor deposed, that as he was going along the Strand, near Covent-Garden, he asked the prisoner the way to King-street, which

he

he undertook to shew him ; but instead of that conducted him into a private place, where was a horse-pond, but dried up, and there took him by the collar, demanding satisfaction, saying he was a sodomite, and drawing his bayonet offered it at his breast, took from him four shillings and sixpence, pulled off his coat, and was endeavouring to get off his rings, but was prevented by some people coming up, who hearing him beg for his life, came to his assistance, and seized the prisoner with the coat and money upon him.

The prisoner, in his defence alledged, that the prosecutor would have committed sodomy with him, that what he did to him was by way of satisfaction for the affront, in tempting him to the commission of so foul a crime : but as he could not prove his assertion, nor produce any to his reputation, the Jury found him guilty of the indictment.

He was a second time indicted for assaulting one James Booker, and taking from him a gold ring, a muslin neckcloth, and ten-pence in money, the 27th of February, 1708-9. This fact was committed in the same place, under the same pretence, and in like manner ; and having little to say in his defence, the Jury found him guilty of that indictment also ; and he received sentence of death.

While he lay under condemnation, he gave the following account of himself to the Ordinary : That he was born at St. Edmundsbury in Suffolk, and had lived as a servant in several gentlemen's families both in the country and in town, and had, for above seven years last past, been in the Queen's service both in Ireland

and Flanders, in Col. Granfield's regiment, and Capt. North's company, and afterwards in her Majesty's regiment of foot-guards, in Brigadier Tatton's company; that he had but little education, and knew but very little of religion, and consequently had lived a dissolute and debauched life. As to the facts for which he was to die, he denied being guilty of them, but owned, that he, knowing the time when, and the places where some sodomites resorted about Covent Garden, was used to put himself in their way; and when any of them would (as he said they often did) carry him to a bye-place thereabouts to commit their foul acts with him, that he would then take hold of them, and threaten to carry them immediately before a justice, unless they gave him satisfaction; by which means he said he got a great deal of money at several times of such persons, who, rather than suffer themselves to be exposed (some of them being persons of a good appearance) gave him either money, rings, or watches, or what else they had about them; adding, that he knew a certain house about Covent Garden, where those Sodomites used frequently to meet, and had several times seen some of them there, and was very sorry he had not then discovered them, as he ought to have done; acknowledging it was just with God to bring him to that shameful punishment, for concealing those vile practices for the sake of filthy lucre. He seemed to behave himself penitently, and persisted even at the gallows to deny the facts; speaking to the people to this effect. That he served the Queen several years, and had been in five campaigns, had been a wild young man, and would be rambling abroad

when

when he should have gone to church; that though he was not guilty of those robberies for which he was going to suffer, yet as he had greatly offended God, so God had justly brought him to that shameful and untimely end.

He was executed at Tyburn, March 23, 1708-9, in the 25th year of his age.

*The Trial, Behaviour, and dying Words of
CHARLES DEAN, condemned for Burg-
lary.*

CHARLES DEAN was indicted at the Old Bailey, Sept. 9, 1710, for breaking open the dwelling-house of John Stone at Shepperton, near Hampton Court, in the night-time, the 7th of June preceding, with intention to steal the goods, chattels, and money of the said John Stone.

The evidence deposed, that on the 7th of June, about twelve at night, the House was broke open, and the prisoner, with one Crouch, entered the prosecutor's chamber, where he and his wife were in bed together; and she going to cry out, Dean threatned to stab her, but she desisting, he bound her. Then Mr. Stone got out of bed, and the prisoner and the other dragged him out of the room, assaulting him after a very violent manner, and with an iron crow broke his skull in divers places, so that his life was despaired of: that the prisoner was seen by divers of the family, who knew him, and were positive he was the man: that day

day coming on, and for fear of being apprehended, they went away without taking any thing, leaving behind a pair of shoes, hat and peruke: that when they were gone, it was found that an entry was made in the brick-wall where the sink was, with the iron crow they had with them.

Besides this positive evidence, it was also deposed, that the prisoner was seen at Brentford by three o'clock that morning without a peruke, hat, or shoes, and pretended he had met with thieves, who took them from him, and desired the person he met to give him a pair of shoes; and the evidence was positive that the prisoner was the man to whom he had given the shoes.

The prisoner, in his defence, denied the fact, and endeavoured to prove he was at London at the time the fact was committed: but the evidence swearing so positively against him, it bore so little weight with the Jury, that they found him guilty of the indictment, and he received sentence of death.

While he lay under condemnation, he told the Ordinary, he was twenty-six years of age, born of good parents in the county of Montgomery in Wales, and brought up to the law in London, where he had lived from his youth; and was for some time an attorney's clerk, and for the last two years had kept chambers in the Temple, and done business for himself. Application was made for a reprieve and pardon, but none could be obtained, it being supposed, that he living extravagantly, had reduced himself, and therefore committed this fact on Mr. Stone, being his uncle or relation, after whose death an estate was to come to himself. He declared

declared himself a Roman Catholic, and therefore declined making any confession to the Ordinary, having priests of his own persuasion to come to him.

When he came to the place of execution, he peremptorily denied his being guilty of the fact, or that he was in the house at that time, and that neither was Mr. Crouch who then stood committed for the same fact.

He was executed Sept. 16, 1710, in company with Jane Forest, for the murder of her bastard child.

Though Mr. John Crouch was in custody at the time of the trial of Charles Dean, upon account of the same fact, yet his trial was deferred till it was seen what would become of Mr. Stone, whether he would live or die, his wound being thought to be mortal, that he might not only be tried for the burglary, as was Mr. Dean, but also for the murder; and accordingly he dying the 2d of October, Crouch took his trial as follows.

*The Trial and Acquittal of JOHN CROUCH,
charged with the Murder of Mr. Stone.*

JOHN CROUCH was indicted at the Old Bailey, Oct. 13, 1710, for breaking open the dwelling-house of Mr. John Stone, at Shepperton, the 7th of June preceding, with intent to steal his goods, money, &c. He was likewise a second time indicted for the murder of Mr. John Stone, by giving him a mortal wound on the hinder part of his head, of which he languished

languished till the 2d of that instant October, and then died.

The first evidence was Mrs. Stone, wife of the deceased, who deposed, that between one and two o'clock that morning, their house was broke open, and one Dean, who had been attained the last sessions, and executed for the burglary, came into her chamber, with another person; that Dean bound her in her bed, and the other dragged out her husband and took him down stairs; that while they were down stairs, the daughter came to her and told her that her father was murdered; that she, getting herself untied, got out of bed, and went down to her husband, where she found him in a deplorable condition, and that he told her Crouch had murdered him; that the prisoner and Dean had made off, leaving a hat, wig, and pair of shoes behind them.

Mrs. Stone being asked by the court, whether she knew the man who came into the chamber with Dean, answered, that she did not know him, nor could swear that the prisoner was the person; nor did any part of the evidence affect the prisoner, saving an affidavit of Mr. Stone deceased, wherein was mentioned expressly that the prisoner was the person who gave him the wounds, and that he knew it to be him by his voice. The surgeons also deposed, that the wounds he had received were the cause of his death.

The prisoner, in his defence, produced nine very substantial witnesses, who proved he was at London at the time the fact was committed; and so punctual were they in their evidence, that they proved where he was the night before

before the murder was done, and where he was all day the 7th of June ; but the most material, and wherein they all agreed was, his being at a feast at the Coventry Cross near Stepney that very night, and continued there all night long, and was not from some of the company till eleven o'clock on Thursday night. Upon the whole, the Jury having considered the matter, acquitted him.

*The Trial and remarkable Confession of
THOMAS MARS, condemned for Burglary.*

THOMAS CURDLEY, otherwise Crudleigh, [otherwise Thomas Mars (which was his right name) was indicted at the Old Bailey, Dec. 7, 1710, together with Henry Norris, for breaking open the dwelling-house of Henry Hubbert of Hampstead, in the night-time, and stealing a bell-metal porridge-pot, some ducks, and a goose and gander, the property of the said Henry Hubbert.

They were also indicted a second time, for breaking open the house of George Man in the night-time, and taking from thence a copper, and other things, the goods of the said George Man, the 30th of November.

It appeared by the evidence, that both the prosecutor's houses had been broke open, and the goods stolen ; and George Man deposed, that hearing a noise in his house, he arose, got help, and pursued after the prisoners ; and that in his pursuit he heard a noise under a hedge, and when they came up to it, found the prisoners

soners with the goods ; that they were very resolute, and fired pistols at them, but missing them, they apprehended them. The facts being thus plainly proved, and the prisoners having nothing material to say in their defence, the Jury found them both guilty. Death.

Thomas Mars, when under condemnation, gave the Ordinary the account following : That he was thirty-two years of age, born near Shrewsbury ; that about fourteen years ago he came up to London, and served an apprenticeship to a mason who was a freeman, and worked at his trade for a while ; but leaving off work, and addicting himself to loose and wicked courses, he was in March 1704, convicted at the Old Bailey, for stealing 200 lb. of lead, belonging to the Cathedral of St. Paul, for which fact he was whipt round the said church ; which correction did not reform him ; for in December 1705, he was arraigned at the Old Bailey for breaking the mills of Mr. Hugh Marchant, and taking thence 322 lb. of iron, and two brass barrels ; for which he was fined 20l. and to lay in Newgate till the fine, which he could not pay, was remitted, which was the May following. That then, being discharged out of Newgate, he listed himself a soldier in the second battalion of foot-guards, under the command of General Holmes. He confessed the fact he stood condemned for, acknowledged he had been a very great and incorrigible sinner, and found by his own woful experience, that one sin, wilfully committed, easily draws on another, and that more ; and a man cannot tell when or where to stop, till it ends at last in a sad and shameful death.

At

At the place of execution, he thus addressed himself to the spectators : " I desire you would all take warning by me, and repent while it is called to-day, and remember your Creator in the days of your youth, that you may not come to so shameful an end. There are, I know, a great many offenders, but I need not name them ; I wish they may all repent in time, and all good people here would pray for me. I ask their pardon whom I have offended, and I declare I die in charity with all men, and wish I could make amends to the persons injured by me."

He delivered a paper to the Ordinary, which, for reasons best known to himself, he did not think fit to print ; he gave also the same to some other persons, which contained what he had before declared with much concern of mind to Mr. Reuse, and some other persons ; the substance of which is as follows : That he and another, known by the name of Black Robin, did, on the 7th of June before, by the help of an iron crow, break in through the brick work at the sink hole of the dwelling house of Mr. John Stone at Shepperton ; and that having got him down stairs, Mr. Stone being a lusty and strong man, seized on a musket, but uncharged, to defend himself, so that there was a scuffle between them ; but he struck him on the head with the iron crow, which wound proved mortal ; and that the bustle between them having alarmed the family, and it then growing day, they thought it best to make off, and he having at his first entrance, put off his shoes to prevent noise, and lost his hat and wig in the scuffle, went away in the hurry without them, and

begged others at Brentford, saying, he had met with thieves who had robbed him of them.

He positively and solemnly declared, that himself and Black Robin were the only persons that committed that fact, and that Mr. Charles Dean, who had been executed for it, and Mr. John Crouch who had also been tried for it, were not at all concerned in it; and that he was heartily grieved that he had actually murdered Mr. Stone, and casually Mr. Dean, for which he heartily begged pardon of God and man.

He was executed at Tyburn in company with Henry Norris, condemned for the same fact with himself, Dec. 15, 1713.

*The Trial, Conduct, and Behaviour of
CHRISTOPHER SLAUGHTERFORD, con-
victed of Murder.*

CHRISTOPHER SLAUGHTERFORD, aged twenty-six years, was born of honest parents at Westbury Green, in the county of Surry. His father was a Miller, and gave him good education till the age of fourteen; then put him apprentice to Mr. Dyer of Godalmin for three years, at the expiration of which, he returned home to his parents; and after some time went and lived with a Master at Midhurst in Sussex, and after that with Mr. Wood of Sandy Chappel in Surry; and then with Mr. Porter of Stoke Darbon, in the same county; at all which places he behaved himself soberly and honestly. But being weary of serving others,

others, he returned home to his friends, and after some time took a Malt-house at Shalford in Surry, where he followed the malt trade with good success, his aunt being his house-keeper, by whose provident way of living, and his own industry, he was in thriving circumstances. But his aunt's parsimonious temper not fitting with his, he is said to have courted one Jane Young, in order to marry her; and she having left her place, in order, as it was given out, to go and be married to Christopher Slaughterford, being seen in his company on the 5th of October, and not being heard of afterwards, he was suspected to have made away with her, and a warrant was taken out to apprehend him; which he hearing of, went voluntarily to Capt. Boosby and Mr. Fulham, two Justices of the Peace, and surrendered himself, who discharged him. And about a month after, Jane Young being found murdered in a pond, near Compton, not far from his house, he being again threatened, went of his own accord to justify himself before Justice Wroth, who committed him to the house of correction at Guildford till the Saturday following, when the Bench of Justices sitting, and examining him, he was by them committed for a week longer, and then sent to the Marshalsea, and at the next assizes was tried at Kingston, and acquitted, and many imagined, she had either made away with herself, or was gone somewhere by his appointment, in order to lie in, they believing she might be with child; and thus it continued for some time.

But the greater part of the neighbourhood thinking him guilty, from the circumstances of the thing, and the evidences against him, at his

trial at Kingston ; and though he was acquitted, yet being ordered to be continued in custody, persuaded the parents and relations of Jane Young to bring an appeal.

The father being unable to bear the charge of it, the country assisted him, every one contributing something thereto ; so that a bill of appeal was exhibited against him, in the name of Henry Young her brother, and he was brought to the Queen's Bench bar, at Westminster, the second day of the term following.

The first witness was Elizabeth Chapman, the mistress of Jane Young, who deposed, that Jane Young, when she went away from her, said she was going to be married to Christopher Slaughterford, and had bought her new cloaths for that purpose ; and that she was going to meet him the Sunday following. That she sometime after enquiring about her, and asking if she was married, was informed, she had been seen in the company of Slaughterford, but nobody could give any account of what was become of her since, and that he himself pretended he knew nothing of her ; but said, he thought she had been at home with Mrs. Chapman, which made her suspect that some ill had befallen her.

Several evidences appeared, who related many circumstances of his familiarity with Jane Young, and his going abroad with her, under pretence of marrying her, and of his being seen with her late that night the murder was committed.

The people of the house where they met, at a place called Sheer, about three miles from Guildford, deposed, that Jane Young came thither

ther on Sunday, and staid there for him till the Tuesday following, at which time he came and stayed there all night, went to dancing thereabouts, and came and lay at that house, with a design, as the people thought, to be married the next morning.

The man of the house deposed, that he said to Slaughterford, if you have a mind the busines should be soon over, and if he wanted one to give her away, he would be father; but Slaughterford seemed displeased at it, and soon went away toward Guildford, and Jane Young after him, he on horseback, and she on foot.

Other witnesses deposed, that it was on the day of the Mayor's feast, which Slaughterford went to; and that Jane Young sat at a Taylor's house in the town to stay for him, being, as she thought, to be married to him the next morning; and that about 12 o'clock at night he came to call her away, asking her to go home with him, and that they went away together towards Slaughterford's house.

Another evidence deposed, that he met a man and a woman about three o'clock that morning on Shalford-common, about a quarter of a mile from the pond; and that the man had light-coloured cloaths on, as Slaughterford had at that time; and that afterwards he heard a great cry, like the shrieking of a woman; adding, that as he past by, he spoke to the man, and, by his voice, did believe it to be Slaughterford.

Another evidence deposed, that he having some business by the pond-side, saw part of the deceased's cloaths appear above the water, and

150 *Trial of CHRIS. SLAUGHTERFORD;*

being surprized, he reached at it with his stick, and pulled up something like an arm, and then calling for assistance, got the body up, and many of the country people coming to see it, knew it to be Jane Young.

A surgeon deposed, that on examining the body, he found three wounds in the deceased's head, which were to the scull, and one of them in the nape of her neck.

One evidence deposed, that after Jane Young was missing, she asking him what became of his whore, he replied, "I have put her off. Do you know any girl that has any money your way? I have got the way of putting them off now.

Another deposed, that before the murder was discovered, she asked him, "what if Jane Young should lay such a child to you, as this is here?" At which he sighed, and said, "It is now impossible;" and cried till the tears ran down his cheeks.

His own man deposed, that coming to his master's house about three o'clock that morning to work, he found him there, and that his master told him he had been up all night.

Other witnesses deposed, that Slaughtersford said in the gaol, that if it had not been for his aunt, he had not been there.

The prisoner denied the fact, and pleaded, that on the 29th of September he hired Jane Young for his servant, contracting with her for forty shillings a year, and that she promised to come to his house the Saturday or Monday following; but that she being informed that his aunt was of a niggardly temper, came to a farmer's house in Shalford, and sending for him, told

told him that she would not stand to her agreement, unless his aunt went away, saying she would stay at an acquaintance of hers till she had his answer; that accordingly, on the Tuesday following, he went to Robert Sherlock's at Sheer, where she was, and calling her to the door, told her, that his aunt would not leave him till he was provided with a good servant. Whereupon she told him, she would return to her old mistress at Alford; but some young people staying at Sheer to be merry, he staid all night with them, and the next morning, the 6th of October with one Richard Carpenter, of Churely, went from thence, which was the last time of his being in her company; and going homewards, called at Lord Onslow's for a pocket-book he had left there, and then went afterwards to one Thomas Collet's of Alberry, but finding nobody at home, he went directly to his own house, and having put up his horse, his aunt told him he was invited to the Mayor's feast, but he must first send two sacks of malt into the country, which he accordingly put up, and going to see for a team to carry it, he saw three women coming down a causey, and one of them going into one Bowton's a Taylor's, he followed her, and asking the boy if his master was gone to the Mayor's feast, he said, yes; whereupon he went away, saying to the woman who was a stranger to him, " how do you do, "dame?" the other two women waiting not far off for her companion. And as he came out of the house, he met with a team, which carried the malt for him, and then he went to the Mayors feast, where he staid till between one and two o'clock in the morning, then went home

home to bed, but saw nothing of Jane Young since he parted from her at the White-horse at Sheer.

His aunt, and a kinsman (a boy) deposed that he lay at home all that night ; but the Jury seemed not satisfied with their evidence. He called divers to his reputation, but that did not avail him : and this being contradicted by the evidence on the other side, he was found guilty, received sentence of death, and was remanded back to the Marshalsea ; where, while he lay under condemnation, he was visited by several ministers, who laboured to bring him to a confession of the fact, but he could by no means be induced thereto. He solemnly declared, that he never made courtship to Jane Young, complaining that one who visited him often during his confinement in the Marshalsea, pretending much friendship to him, did him great injustice, and reflected on the unkindness and barbarity of his man J. L. and that he feared that one Mr. B. W. had conceived a spleen against his father as one J. W. had against his uncle, which they not being able to vent upon them, had extended their malice against him, so as to suborn witnesses to swear against him, but he freely forgave them. His mother also and friends came to see him, but could by no means get any confession of the fact out of him.

On Friday about 10 o'clock, he was carried from the Marshalsea to Guildford, where several divines came to visit him, but none of them could bring him to own he was guilty of the murder. He obtained a reprieve from Wednesday till Saturday ; the Mayor of Guilford going to him, acquainted him he must expect no longer

longer time, and gave him also good advice, but by no means could get him to confess the fact. He desired that Mr. Woodroff, a minister in that town should be sent for; which gave room to expect he would say something as to the fact, but what he said was rather of a contrary nature, tending to justify himself.

Being led to the gibbet, the only request he had to make was to the executioner, that he might throw himself off; and they were almost the only words he uttered there, for being tied up, before the executioner could descend to do the rest of his office, in turning the ladder, he had swung himself off. He seemed to die with a resolute obstinacy, but delivered the following paper to the Sheriff.

Guildford, July 9, 1709.

“ I being brought here to die, according to
“ the sentence passed upon me at the Queen’s
“ Bench Bar, for a crime of which I am wholly
“ innocent, thought myself obliged to let the
“ world know, that they may not reflect on
“ my friends and relations, whom I have left
“ behind me much troubled for my fatal end,
“ that I know nothing of the death of Mrs.
“ Jane Young, nor how she came by her
“ death, directly or indirectly, though some
“ have pleased to cast reflections on my aunt.
“ However, I freely forgive all my enemies, and
“ pray to God to give them a due sense of their
“ errors, and in his due time to bring the truth
“ to light. In the mean time I beg every one
“ to forbear reflecting on my dear mother, or
“ any of my relations, for my unjust and un-
“ happy fall, since what I have here set down
“ is truth, and nothing but truth, as I expect

“ salva-

“ salvation at the hands of Almighty God; but
“ I am heartily sorry that I should be the cause
“ of persuading her to leave her dame, which
“ is all that troubles me, as witness my hand,
“ this 9th day of July.

C. SLAUGHTERFORD.

*The Trial of DANIEL DAMAREE, &c. for
Treason.*

DANIEL DAMAREE, a waterman, was indicted at the Old Bailey, April 19, 1710, for High Treason; for that he, on the first of March last, in the parish of St. Clement's Danes, did, with a great multitude of men, to the amount of 500, armed with swords and clubs, raise and levy public war against the Queen.

After the council had opened the charge, the first witness called was Mr. Talboy, who deposed, that going through the Temple, he saw thousands of people there, that had attended upon Dr. Sacheverel from Westminster-hall, and heard some of them cry out that they would pull down Dr. Burgess's Meeting-house that night, others were for pulling it down the ensuing night; and a third sort not till they had seen the event of Dr. Sacheverel's trial; they all agreed in the design, though they differed in the time for putting it into execution, which however was done on the next night, being the 2d of March.

The second witness was Capt. Orril, who deposed, that about ten at night, he was at Leonard's

wards Coffee-house, and news was brought there, that the mob had pulled down Dr. Burgess's Meeting-house; he then resolved to go about where they were, in order to do what service he could to the government, in making discoveries, &c. That the first place he went to was Mr. Bradbury's Meeting-house, in Fetter-lane, where he saw the people rifling the same, and was there forced to pull off his hat; and about half an hour after ten he went into Lincoln's inn-fields, where there was a bonfire made, of the materials of Dr. Burgess's Meeting-house, and he saw at a distance from him, a part of the mob headed by a tall man, to whom he went up and spoke, and found him to be the prisoner with the Queen's coat and badge on; that he saw him twirl his hat, and cry, "D---n ye, I'll head you on; G---d d---n me, we will have all the Meeting-houses down; I'll head you on; High Church and Sacheverel! huzza!" He further deposed, that that part was divided where to go next, some were for going to Wild street, others objected against that, and said it was but a hen-roost, and proposed to go into Drury-lane, for that Meeting was worth ten of that in Wild-street. Upon which they all agreed to go to Drury-lane; and the mob not being so quick as their leader, he cried, "D---n you, why don't you come along. High Church and Sacheverel, huzza!" that then this witness lost him; this was about half an hour after ten.

The next evidence was Joseph Collier, who deposed, that about nine o'clock he saw the prisoner bring the brass seonce out of Dr. Burgess's Meeting-house, and carry it to the fire in Lin-

colns-inn-fields and in a kind of procession, go round with it two or three times about the fire, huzzaing with the mob, "High Church, " and Sacheverel," and then flung it in. He observed the prisoner had been there about two hours, was positive to the man, and said he was one of the principal men in exciting the mob, and went off with great part of them to Drury-lane just before the guards came up. Several other witnesses deposed to the same effect.

The prisoner, in his defence, denied his being the person, pleading that he had been drinking from nine in the morning till ten at night, at which time he was very much in liquor.

And one Wood deposed that he and the prisoner being drinking at an ale-house in Water-lane about ten at night, news was brought there was a fire in the Strand; the prisoner then said there was a lady in the Strand that used to buy coals of him, and he would go to help her; that they immediately went to Temple-bar, stopping nowhere by the way, but were stopt there and forced by the croud through Sheer-lane into Lincolns-inn-square, and from thence through the wicket into Lincolns-inn-fields, that against the wicket in Duke-street, the mob seeing the prisoner in the Queen's cloth, caught him by the cravat, and threatned to dash his brains out if he would not go with them; and as soon as they laid hands on him, he left him and went home.

The alehouse-keeper deposed, he went away much in liquor a little after ten; and being asked, if any news of a fire was brought to his house, replied, no.

Charles

Charles Fisher deposed, that he was in company with Wood and the prisoner at an alehouse in Water-lane, and that the news of a fire in the Strand was brought thither about half an hour after eight, and the prisoner staid an hour, or an hour and a half after, before he went away.

Mr. Ward deposed, that he came out of the alehouse with the prisoner about half an hour after ten, and left him talking with one Mrs. Giles about six doors from Water-lane, who deposed the prisoner was with her about a quarter of an hour.

The next witness was one Commins, who deposed, he saw the prisoner at the bonfire in Lincolns-inn-fields, about eleven o'clock very drunk, and the people hawling him, and, as he thought, making sport with him.

Mary Redding deposed, that going with another woman to see for her brother at the bonfire in Lincolns-inn-fields, she saw a sconce carried about the bonfire three times, and the man that carried it had the Queen's coat and badge on, who was a short man with black hair, but she only saw him through people's legs and arms ; she added, that about half an hour after the sconce was thrown into the fire, she met the prisoner going towards the bonfire when it was almost burnt to ashes.

Isabella Prince, Bedding's companion, gave the same account ; and that she saw him when the mob opened the ring to receive those that brought the wood, and that she met him when she was going from the fire about eleven o'clock in Great Queen-street.

Rowland Water deposed, he took the prisoner up at Strandbridge at half an hour after eleven o'clock, and carried him croſs the water to his own house.

Mrs. Hall and Mrs. Harvey deposed, they met the prisoner in the Strand, going towards the May-pole about eleven o'clock.

The last piece of evidence for the prisoner were the witnesses to his reputation, such as gave him a very good character. Notwithstanding which defence, the evidence for the Queen being positive, and agreeing in all the particulars of it, and that of the prisoners agreeing with that of the Queen's in many points, and some of them, on whom the greatest stress seem to have been laid, being very uncertain and contradictory, the Jury went out, and in a very little time returned, and brought him in guilty of High Treafon.

FRANCIS WILLIS was tried at the same time for affiſting in demolishing the meeting-house of Mr. Bradbury in Fetter-lane, and burning the materials at a bonfire in Holbourn; but for want of ſufficient evidence was acquitted.

GEORGE PURCHASE was likewife indicted for High Treafon, for that he with a great multitude of people armed, did, on the tenth of March levy war againſt the Queen.

Captain Orril deposed, that after he had been ſeveral times at Mr. Burgess's meeting-house, and ſaw that demolished, and the fire made in Lincolns-inn-fields with the utensils thereof, he met a detachment of the Queen's Guards, and directed them to go to Drury-lane; that when he with the Guards came thither, he ſaw a bonfire made with the pew and other utensils thereof, and a great mob about it which were scattered

scattered by the guards ; that there he saw the prisoner under a bulk with a drawn sword in his hand, who pushed several times at the horses breasts with his sword to keep them off ; that he was then driven from that place, and went a small distance off to the end of Long-acre, and then went up to him, and asked him what he meant, and said, in opposing the Queen's Guards, he opposed the Queen, and would have him put up his sword and go home : but instead of taking this advice, he made this reply, " D---n " you, who are you ? For High Church and " Sacheverel or no ? I am, G---d d---n them " all (meaning the guards) for I am as good a " man as any of them all ;" and called to the mob, " Come on, come on boys ; I'll lead you " on, I am for High Church and Sacheverel, " and I'll lose my life in the cause." After this he ran resolutely with his sword in his hand, and made a full pass at the officer's body ; but one of the guards giving a large spring beat his sword down ; or else he would have run him through the left flank, that he retired a little lower, and the guards had at this time dispersed all the mob, knocking down about forty or fifty of them in the action. And as this witness was going off, he heard some of the mob say, they would be revenged on the guards to-morrow night, for they durst not fire upon them.

Richard Russel, one of the guards, deposed, that he was commanded by his serjeant to march into Drury-lane, and to return their bayonets, and draw their swords ; that when they came to Drury-lane there was a bonfire, with a large mob about it ; that at the fire the horse was drawn into one line, with their tails against the

wall, that none of the mob might come behind; that Purchase then stood in the middle of the lane and huzza'd and came up, and would have thrust himself between two horses, but was beaten off with the flat of their swords; that then the guards wheeled about the fire, and the prisoner came up at the head of the mob, and cried, "D----n you, who are you," whether, "for High Church, or Low Church, or Dr. Sacheverel?" and that this was about a quarter of an hour before the mob was dispersed there.

One Sutherland, an officer that drew the guards up, deposed, that he saw the prisoner several times at the bonfires in Drury-lane, and saw him flourish his sword drawn, and cry out he was for Sacheverel; that he went up to him, and said, "Sir, are you encouraging the mob? He replied, he was for Sacheverel; that then he, this evidence, went up to Capt. Horsey, to acquaint him how troublesome the prisoner had been, and received orders from the Captain to cut him in pieces; but the prisoner made off.

George Richardson deposed, that he knew the prisoner, for they had been together in Flanders. That on the 1st of March, about ten o'clock at night, the guards marched from St. James's to Lincolns-inn-fields, where they quelled the mob, and marched thence into Drury-lane; that when they came there they found a bonfire with a great mob about it; that they struck the people with the flat of their swords and dispersed them. He farther deposed, that he saw the prisoner make a thrust at Capt. Hansberg, and said to him, "Do you intend to kill my officer?" Then with his sword he struck down the prisoner.

sonet's point, upon which the prisoner retired under a pent-house, and this witness rid up to him, with a design to cut him down, but was prevented by his sword breaking as it was lifted up against the pent-house. Being asked, whether the prisoner knew Capt. Hansberg, he replied, he did, for he was abroad with him in Flanders.

The prisoner in his defence, produced several witnesses, that he had been drinking from nine in the morning till ten at night, at which time he came from the Cross-keys tavern with Mr. Broad the Bailiff, who deposed he left him very much in liquor, and, as he thought, going to his own house.

There was nothing in the whole evidence for the prisoner, that contradicted what was sworn by the Queen's evidence; so that after Lord Chief Justice Parker had summed up the evidence on both sides, the Jury went out, and returned in about four hours, well satisfied with the proof of the fact, but not as to the points of law, and therefore brought in their verdict special.

*The Trial and Confession of GRACE TRIP,
condemned for being an Assistant in Mu-
rder, and Housebreaking.*

GRACE TRIP, of St. Martin's in the Fields, was indicted for being present, aiding, and assisting James Peters in the murder of Elizabeth Blundel, on the 26th of Febr-

ary, 1709-10. She was likewise indicted upon the Coroner's inquest.

She was indicted a third time, for breaking the house of the Earl of Torrington, and taking from thence twenty silver spoons, twelve silver forks, four silver salvers, four silver castors, and a silver chamber-pot, valued at forty-six pounds.

It appeared, that the prisoner was hired by Elizabeth Blundel into the Earl's family, the Thursday before the fact was committed; and on the Friday she met with one James Peters, and fixed the murder and robbery; that on the Saturday following, Peters was let into the house privately in the evening, as she was washing the entry, and conveyed by her into a garret, and about five in the morning Peters came into the prisoner's room, who struck a light, arose, and went down into the kitchen; that they took a large wooden pestle from thence, and went to Mrs. Blundel's chamber, opened the door and went in; that Peters went to Mrs. Blundel in the bed; and with the pestle gave her two blows on the head, of which she instantly died, the prisoner holding the candle while the fact was committed; and then the goods were taken away, part of which were found in the prisoner's possession.

The Jury found her guilty of all the indictments, and she received sentence of death accordingly.

The account which the Ordinary gives of her while she lay under condemnation, is as follows. She was very sparing in the opening her heart to me in the matter she was found guilty of, and condemned for. I pressed her very much to be

be free, true, and sincere, and so did others ; but she would not be persuaded to make a full confession. Sometimes indeed she owned, that she was present when (on the twenty sixth of February last at night) James Peters, who was her sweet-heart, and by her let into the house that night, committed that barbarous murder upon Mrs. Elizabeth Blundel, house-keeper to the Earl of Torrington's family, in which herself was also a servant ; and that this James Peters would have had her held the candle to him while he committed the fact ; but instead of helping him therein, she took the candle and threw it upon the ground, and went towards the window with an intent to cry out murder ; but durst not, for fear of being murdered herself. At other times, she positively denied her being in the room, and that she was in the kitchen below stairs when this happened ; and that she knew nothing of the murder till James Peters told her of it, which was after they had packed up my Lord's plate, and carried it away : In which robbery she acknowledged she was concerned both with another woman, and the said Peters, who was that woman's acquaintance, as well as her own. She said, that woman had given her so much wine and strong drink that night, that she was very much fuddled, so that she did not know what she did. She pretended she could very well remember, that after they had carried away the goods thus stolen by them, Peters charged her (if she was taken) not to discover that the said woman knew any thing of the murder, but take it upon herself ; saying, that she was the only person present at it, and assisting him in it. Which she told me was

was the reason of her owning (as she did several times) that she was aiding and assisting in that murder. But now she denied it.

This is the substance of what she then declared concerning these two heinous facts, the murder and the robbery; for both which she was condemned to this sad untimely death, in the bloom of her age; she not being, as she said, quite nineteen years of age; and added, that she was born of honest parents, at Barton in Lincolnshire; that they had given her a good education, but she could not say she had lived up to it. That about two years since she came up to London, and had been in service in four or five families in town, and had not, till now, wronged any of her masters or mistresses, but her late mistress with whom she lived before she came into the Earl of Torrington's family, in which she had been but three days, when those notorious facts of murder and robbery were committed there: and that the wrong she had done to that mistress was not great, she having stolen from her, only an old shift, a handkerchief, some pieces of Holland, and a pair of old sheets. Here she confessed also though with much difficulty and reluctance, that she had stolen several pieces of gold, about thirty-one guineas, one half-guinea, a double guinea piece, and a broad piece or two of gold, which were in a green silk purse, in her master Mr. Bournt's closet. She had been asked several Questions, and told as many formal lies about this matter; but at last confessed it.

But further, she confessed, that she had been highly guilty of that which is the devil's sin, and that is, pride, which had led her into that

of covetousness, which often proves (as it did in this case) the parent of theft and murder, and is frequently attended with several other crimes.

Peters had fed her up with fancies, that when they had got a good booty, he would make her live very high, and keep her like a lady. At last she was so far wrought upon as to be brought to confess, that she stood in the passage near Mrs. Blundel's chamber, when Peters murdered her. She was thereupon asked these questions severally.

1st. Whether she did not see him give the blow, or blows?

2dly. Whether she did not hear any blows given, or any noise made in the room?

3dly. Whether indeed, she did not shew Peters the way to that room?

4thly. Whether she did not go herself into the room with him?

5thly. Whether she held not the candle to him while he was committing, or about to commit that barbarous fact?

6thly. Whether she had not given him the wooden pestle with which he did it?

And lastly, Whether she did not help him to search that poor murdered gentlewoman's pockets, and rob her, as (by her own confession) she had assisted him in robbing the house, and carrying the goods away?---

To all which questions, being pressed to give positive answers, either yea, or no, she would say nothing at all.

At the place of execution, I exhorted her over and over, to consider whether she was going, and see that she did not carry the guilt of any

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sin unrepented of, into the other world, which would make her miserable, and burn in hell-fire for ever. I pressed her therefore to clear her conscience, and make a more free and open confession than she had yet done of the murder she was now to die for. To which she replied, "She was not at, nor consenting to it." After performing the usual service, I withdrew, and she was turned off.

She was executed at Tyburn, March 17, 1709-10.

*The Trial of RICHARD THORNHILL Esq. for
the Murder of Sir Cholmley Deering,
in a Duel.*

RICHARD THORNHILL, Esq. was indicted at the Old Bailey, May 18, 1711, for the murder of Sir Cholmley Deering, the ninth of April preceding, by giving him one mortal wound with a leaden bullet under the left pap, of which he soon after died.

The evidence deposed, that on the seventh of April, Sir Cholmley Deering and the prisoner, and about sixteen gentlemen, were together at the Toy at Hampton-court, and that a difference happened between Sir Cholmley and Mr. Thornhill; upon which Sir Cholmley struck Mr. Thornhill on the face; and that as they were struggling with each other, the wainscot of the room broke in, and Mr. Thornhill fell down, and had some of his teeth struck out by Sir Cholmley's stamping upon him; that upon this the company immediately interposed to prevent farther

farther mischief; and Sir Cholmley, being made sensible of his fault, declared himself ready to ask Mr. Thornhill's pardon; to which Mr. Thornhill replied, asking pardon was not sufficient for the injury done him, in beating out his teeth, saying, Sir Cholmley you know were to find me; to which Sir Cholmley made answer, it was a lie. Soon after this, the company broke up, and it was observed, that those two gentlemen went home in different coaches, and with some resentment.

Another evidence deposed, that Sir Cholmley had, after this made overtures for an accommodation.

Other witnesses deposed, that Sir Cholmley came the ninth of April to the Coffee-house at Kensington, and enquired of the maid whether Mr. Thornhill lodged there; that the maid answered, that Mr. Thornhill had lodged there, but did not then. That Sir Cholmley having found out Mr. Thornhill's lodgings, asked if Mr. Thronhill was within, and was told he was, but not stirring; upon which he immediately went up stairs; and Mr. Thornhill's servant deposed, that Sir Cholmley came into his master's dining-room with a brace of pistols in his hands, upon which he informed his master Sir Cholmley was there; who thereupon came to him, and asked Sir Cholmley, if he would drink a dish of tea, which he refused, but drank a glass of small beer. That then Mr. Thornhill having dressed himself, they went together in a hackney-coach to Tothil-fields.

Another evidence deposed, that when they were there, they came up one towards the other, like two lions, with their pistols advanced; and when

when they were within four yards of each other, discharged so equally together, it could not well be discovered who shot first. That Sir Cholmley fell. And Mr. Thornhill went to him, lifting up his hands and eyes with great concern, and immediately went off, but was soon stopped by a person who came up to him, and told him he had killed a man, and therefore he must apprehend him, and would carry him before Justice Crofts, who was a gentleman, and would use him as such ; that thereupon Mr. Thornhill said to him, he would go with him where he pleased, for he was going only to seek help for his friend, and desired them without delay to send for a surgeon ; and for that purpose he offered one a guinea, and gave another half a guinea : That he expressed a great sorrow, saying, he had rather have lost his right arm.

A woman deposed, that seeing Sir Cholmley lying on the ground, she reared up his head, and finding him very faint, gave him something to drink, asking him if he had a wife, or children ; that then she enquired how he came by that misfortune ; he answered, a challenge. That by and by a surgeon came, and offered to let him blood, but Sir Cholmley told him he had lost blood enough already ; and the surgeon dressed his wound, and he was put into a chair, and carried to a gardener's house that was near at hand, and then the surgeon took from him six or seven ounces of blood, dressed his wound again, and gave him cordials, &c.

The council for the Queen, demanded of the brother-in-law to Sir Cholmley, how he
came

came by a paper directed to Sir Cholmley, which was read in court, and is as follows:

S I R,

May 8, 1711.

“ I shall be able to go abroad to-morrow morning, and desire you will give me a meeting with your sword and pistols, which I insist on: The worthy gentleman who brings you this, will concert with you for the time and place. I think Tothill-fields will do well; Hyde-park will not, this time of the year being full of company.

“ I am,

“ Your humble Servant,

“ RICHARD THORNHILL.”

The gentleman replied, that by reason of the great concern he was under at that time, he could give no particular account of that paper, but that he received it among several others, that were thrown into his hat in the room where Sir Cholmley died, and which he supposed were taken out of his pocket, but could not say whether before or after his death; and that his first discovery of it was, upon pulling out his handkerchief as he was walking in the garden immediately after Sir Cholmley’s decease.

Mr. Thornhill, in his defence, produced several witnesses to shew how much he was abused by the deceased; that from the time of his wounds given, he had lain in inexpressible pain and anguish, so that he could only take broth and small beer for his sustenance, for almost a fortnight; that by the anguish, he was thrown into a fever, his life despaired of, his jaw-bone,

at that time in great danger of mortifying, and the necessity of losing more of his teeth: that the deceased came to him, as had been deposed; and as to what the boy swore, that he did believe the challenge to be his hand, it ought not to be of any stress since he acknowledged in court he had never seen him write in his life. He also produced a great many persons of credit and quality, who gave him the character of a kind, affable, and courteous gentleman, never in the least given to quarrelling; whereas the deceased was apt to be unwarrantably contentious: that there had been an entire friendship between Sir Cholmley and him, till that fatal accident; that he had been very serviceable to the deceased, in his election for Member of Parliament; had expended several hundred pounds in his service, procuring above eight hundred votes for him, one of which was Sir Thomas Robinson, who deposed, that he was present at the Toy at Hampton Court when the quarrel happened, and that soon after, he heard that Sir Cholmley would have made up the difference; but meeting Sir Cholmley at the play-house, he asked him (the witness) whether he had lately heard any thing of Mr. Thornhill, for that he had sent to him, but could never receive an answer; and therefore thought he still resented the matter; that thereupon, he replied to Sir Cholmley, " You know that best;" and that Sir Cholmley said, " If he required further satisfaction, he was ready to give it, and " the sooner the better."

The Council asked Sir Thomas of his acquaintance with Mr. Thornhill, and if he knew his hand? he replied, he had known him

him for twenty years, had been school-fellow at Westminster; and since had kept a constant correspondence, and had received several letters from him; and being shewn the challenge, believed that was not Mr. Thornhill's hand, for that Mr. Thornhill used to write his name in smaller letters; but did not know his hand so well, to swear it was, or was not his.

Mr. Thornhill's servant deposed, he did believe it to be his master's hand.

The surgeon deposed, that the hurt Mr. Thornhill had received at the toy was very dangerous, that he had a fever, and that if he had not been of a strong constitution, it might have occasioned his death.

Two women that attended him certified, that he received no nourishment but by liquids; and that the operations that were necessary to be made, were purposely deferred for his better defence at his trial.

Another evidence deposed, that upon asking Sir Cholmley whether he came by the injury, by unfair usage, he replied, no, " Poor " Thornhill ! I am sorry for him ; this misfor- " tune was my own fault, and of my own " seeking : I heartily forgive him, and desire " you all to take notice of it, that it may be " some service to him ; and that one misfor- " tune may not occasion another.

Dr. Smalridge deposed, that he being sent for to Sir Cholmley, he would have received the Sacrament from him, telling him, " he was " extremely sorry for what had happened :" that thereupon he told Sir Cholmley, " he could " not administer the Sacrament to him, unless " he was sorry for the crime also." To which

Sir Cholmley answered, "What would you have me do? I was challenged:" that thereupon he replied, that was not sufficient to justify him; but that he must own the fault, and forgive the person; that Sir Cholmley did express himself, that he did heartily repent of that, and all his other sins, and freely forgave the person who did him the injury.

Upon hearing the whole matter, the Judge acquainted the Jury how the law stood in respect to manslaughter and murder, viz.

"That where there was no previous quarrel, "and a person should happen to be killed in "heat of blood, upon a sudden difference that "might arise, in this case the law did so far in- "dulge the passions of men, as to allow such an "action to be only manslaughter.

"But if there was a preposse malice, and "some time intervened after the quarrel hap- "pened, the law supposing the passion of men "might cool, did in such a case adjudge it to "be wilful murder.

The Jury considering the matter, found Mr. Thornhill guilty of Manslaughter only.

*The Trial, Confession, and Behaviour of
ELIZABETH MASON, convicted of Mur-
dering her Mistress.*

ELIZABETH MASON, of St. Paul, Covent-Garden, was indicted at the Old Bailey, June 6, 1712, for the murder of Jane Scoles, by mixing a certain quantity of poison, called

called yellow arsenick, in coffee, and giving it the said Jane Scoles to drink, on the 18th of April, with intent to poison her; and she drinking the same languished till the 19th and then died: to which indictment she pleaded guilty, and received sentence of death accordingly.

The account given by the Ordinary of this malefactor, is as follows: To begin with her age, she said, that on the 10th of April last, she believed she was fourteen years old, but was not certain, neither did she know any thing of her birth or parentage, any more than that she had heard some people say, her father was an exciseman, and that she was born at Melton Mowbray in Leicestershire; and from thence carried very young to Sutton, near Peterborough in Northamptonshire: Where she said she was at nurse, and there remained till she was about seven years of age, and then was brought up to London, and lived about seven years with Mrs. Jane Scoles, (who told her she was her godmother) and Mrs. Catherine Cholwell, sister to Mrs. Scoles; they dwelling both together at that time without Temple-bar, and afterwards in Covent-Garden.

As this young maid grew up, they put her to all manner of house-work, and she helped them also in their business of clear-starching: but growing weary of this service, which she found hard, and hoping, (as they promised her) that they would leave her all that they were worth at their death, she resolved to poison them both; which she did accordingly: and it was thus.

On Friday in the Passion week, being sent by her mistresses on an errand, she tarried so long, that they were very angry, and corrected her severely for it at her return. After that, they sent her on another errand to Gracechurch-street; while being full of spleen against them, in her way, she bought of a Druggist two ounces and a half of yellow arsenick, (which she pretended was to kill rats) and next morning (Good Friday) she mixed part of it with some coffee she had made for her mistresses, and threw the rest away, as supposing she should have no further use for it. Her mistresses drank the coffee; and thereupon Mrs. Scoles found herself extremely ill, and, not knowing the cause of her illness, said, "she was struck with death." And so it proved; for being thereupon strangely altered, and growing worse, died the next morning, before the minister (who was then sent for) could come and pray by her. As for Mrs. Cholwell, the poison did not kill her; which the treacherous wretch observing, and finding herself disappointed of her design, resolved to poison her a second time, and do it effectually, as she had served her other mistress before. For which wicked purpose, about ten or twelve days after, she went to the same shop again, and bought a half-penny-worth of the same arsenick, and put it into a porringer of water-gruel, prepared for Mrs. Cholwells breakfast. Here the good Providence of God manifestly interposed in the preservation of Mrs. Cholwell's life; for when this deadly breakfast was brought up to her, it was so hot, that she was obliged to let it cool a-while before she could take it, and by that means the arsenick settling at the bottom of the porringer,

the

she did not swallow it all down ; however, what she did take of it made her immediately very sick. Upon which, she looking in her porringer, and seeing something that appeared strange, sent for her apothecary ; who, on examining it, perceiving it to be rank poison, gave her a good quantity of oil to drink ; and by that, and other proper remedies, the poison was expelled, and the farther mischievous effects of it prevented. Upon which the wretched maid was suspected of having poisoned the deceased, and this her surviving mistress ; and being charged with it, she readily confessed it ; as she did likewise before two Justices of the Peace, who examined her, and, on her own confession, committed her to Newgate.

On my asking her, whether any sweet-heart, pretended lover, or other person, had prompted her to the commission of this great wickedness, she answered me, No ; adding, " that the Devil " and her own pride, and the hope of living at " ease, by having all that her mistresses should " leave behind them, were the only cause of it." And being farther asked, whether she had not sometimes cheated her mistresses of monies which she received for them ? she not only owned it, but also confessed, " that to hide those cheats, " and other faults, she had often told abundance " of lies ; the remembrance whereof was a " great grief to her."

I gave her the best advice I could, and earnestly exhorted her to stir up herself to God, and to implore a lively faith and sincere repentance. This did not seem at first to make much impression on her mind ; but at last she was awakened, and became sensible of the miserable condition

dition her sins had brought her into, and expressed her great desire of God's pardon, praying that he would deliver her from blood-guiltiness. She also asked forgiveness of her surviving mistress, Mrs. Cholwell, for attempting twice to kill her with poison, and for all the other injuries she had at any time done both to her and her deceased sister.

The day before she died, she received the holy Sacrament (which she longed for) with great devotion. And when the time of her death drew near, she seemed so far from being discomposed with any uneasy thoughts about it, that she comfortably resigned up her spirit to God, saying, "I feel now more joy in my heart, than if I were going to a feast or merry-making. Methinks I see the gates of heaven open, and the glorious things therein, plainly before my eyes; and I doubt not in the least but I shall obtain them through the merits and intercession of my dear Redeemer."

She was executed at Tyburn, June 18, 1712.

The Trial, Strange Confession, and Stupid Behaviour of JOSEPH PHILLIPS, convicted of Murder.

JOSEPH PHILLIPS, of St. Mary White-chapel, was indicted at the Old Bailey, the 16th of July, 1712, for the murder of Thomas Cook, an infant of six years of age, the sixth of June

June preceding, by cutting his throat with a razor.

The evidence was the father of the child, who deposed, that the prisoner had lodged with him three quarters of a year; and that about Easter before, the child was brought home from nurse, and the repeated entreaties of the prisoner, who was very desirous to have him lie with him, and that he did lie with him awhile till the prisoner was taken sick, and then the child lay with its father and mother. After his recovery, the child was unwilling to lie with him again, but was at length prevailed upon; and in the morning, the sixth of June, he not hearing him stir, as usual, went up stairs into the chamber, and to the bed-side, where he saw the dreadful spectacle of his child lying with his hands tied, and his throat cut, but the prisoner gone. The same night the father was informed where the prisoner was, and took him; at which time he confessed the fact, saying, he had bought the razor on purpose some days before, and desired the child to lie with him, for the end to murder him; and that he did it because he had a mind to die; and the same he said before the Justice.

Upon his trial he made no defence, only said, "Now it is done, it cannot be helped," and that he was overpowered, and had a mind to die: and being asked, what time he did the cruel fact, he answered, it was in the morning after he was up and had his cloaths on; and that when he had done it he went to Dulwich, but could not be quiet till he returned.

Several witnesses endeavoured to prove him lunatic, but by a great many others it appeared to

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to be quite otherwise, and that he was rather sullen than mad.

Upon the whole, the Jury found him guilty of wilful murder, and he received sentence of death.

The Ordinary gives this account of him: That he said he was about twenty-three years of age, born in Bishopsgate-street, by trade a Silk-weaver, at which he used to work very hard, and never was addicted to swearing, cursing, lying, whoring, drinking, or the like; that he frequently went to church, and sometimes to meetings; that he never was guilty of murder before, nor of any other crimes whatever. He confessed he was guilty of the fact, but could not presently be brought to own, that it was a most crying and horrible sin; saying, that he did it only to be hanged, for he mightily longed to die. In this persuasion he seemed some time to be; and at other times said, he was sorry for what he had done, and would fain live if he could. The Ordinary then told him, he must die, for that he had chosen, and there was no room left for another choice; but his great business was, to prepare for death in good earnest, by praying to God that he might truly repent of that horrid murder he had committed; and which would certainly damn him to all eternity, except he repented of it with all his heart. But he did not appear in the least affected with these and more exhortations of the like nature, but remained sullen, obstinate, and hardened, and seemed all along very foolish, and insensible of his present miserable condition, and the great danger he was in of falling into a greater: And thus he continued, till he saw death coming close

close upon him, which in some measure awakened him, and drew from him such expressions as these; “ I am very sorry for what I have done, “ and wish I had not done it : I pray God for “ give me ; but said, it cannot be helped now ; “ if it could, I would never do it again for all “ the world.” The Ordinary thereupon ex- horted him seriously to consider of what he had done, and what would become of him, if he did not truly and thoroughly repent of that, and all other his sins. To which he gave no answer but this : “ To be sure, I repent ;” but ap- peared still dull and stupid : but afterwards seemed to have a greater sense, shedding tears, and ex- pressing sorrow for his crime.

He was executed at Tyburn, without making any other confession, August 1, 1712, in the twenty-third year of his age.

*The Trial, Confession, and despairing Con-
dition of ELIZABETH CHIVERS, con-
victed for the Murder of her bastard
Child.*

ELIZABETH CHIVERS, of the parish of Stepney, was indicted at the Old Bailey, July 16, 1712, for the Murder of her female bastard child, Elizabeth Ward, by drowning it in a pond ; to which indictment she pleaded guilty, and received sentence of death.

The following is the Ordinary’s account of her : She readily owned the fact, and said, the manner of her life had been thus : That she, be- ing

ing very young when her father died, and her mother left in very poor circumstances, she was obliged to go to service at fourteen years of age: that she had lived in several worthy families, where she behaved herself faithfully and honestly in all respects; but, that two years since, she removing from the service she was then in to another, her master persuaded her to lie with him, and got her with child: that when she began to grow big, she went from his house to another service, where she staid about six weeks, and then took lodgings for herself; when some time after, being brought to-bed of a female child, which they named Elizabeth Ward; the father promised he would provide both for the mother and child; which he did till (about three months after) the Devil putting it into her heart to destroy the poor infant, which she suckled, carried it to Hackney, and drowned it in a pond there. And this she did without being driven to it by any necessity, or any remorse for it then: that she being observed by some people who were near the place at that time, she was presently apprehended, carried before a Justice, and committed to Newgate. There she was a prisoner a good while before her tryal, as she was after it, and all along in a despairing condition: for when I exhorted her to repentance, and shewed her how she might perform this great and important duty, she said to me, "O Sir! I am lost! I cannot "pray, I cannot repent, my sin is too great to be "pardoned! I did commit it with deliberation "and choice, and in cold blood; I was not "driven to it by necessity: the father had all the "while provided for me, and for the child, and "would have done so still, had not I, out of "my

my wretched heart, destroyed the child, and cast myself away.

Upon this I took occasion to shew her, how the Devil generally brings those who suffer themselves to be tempted by him, from one sin to another: and that therefore we should be aware of his sleights, and keep at as great a distance from him as possible; always praying to God that we may not fall into temptation.

With these and such kind of admonitions, I perceived she was somewhat moved, and seemed to be made sensible of her most heinous and crying sin, and of the mercy of God to repenting sinners: But still she said, her heart was hard, and she could not repent as she should, nor have any good hope of herself. In this condition she continued till within a few hours of her death, and then she seemed to have more comfortable thoughts, that she hoped God had turned her heart, and would save her soul.

She said, she was born of honest parents, in Spital-fields, in the parish of Stepney; and that except this her adultery and murder, the former part whereof (which was the occasion of the latter) she committed at the pressing sollicitation of her master Ph. W. She could not charge herself with any enormous crime whatever, she having always, before that time, kept herself chaste, faithful and honest.

She was executed at Tyburn, August, 1712.

*The Trial and Conviction of RICHARD
TOWN, Tallow-chandler, for concealing his
Effects.*

THIS was the first instance of any man executed on this penal statute. He left behind him a considerable sum of money in India bonds hid in the room out of which he died. These bonds were found by Mr. Caffils, many years confined in that prison, together with Major Bernarde and Mr. Blackbourne on suspicion of being concerned in the plot for assassinating King William. Mr. Caffils very honestly restored the bonds, amounting to a considerable sum, to the family of Mr. Town, a circumstance, I think, worthy to be mentioned.

RICHARD TOWN was indicted at the Sessions in the Old Bailey, in September 1712, for that he, having followed the trade and mystery of a Tallow-chandler, and bought and sold goods and merchandises in that art, and got his living thereby, at divers times since the month of April 1707, and having contracted several debts by such his dealing, buying and selling, particularly 100l. to William Thomas, and above 1000l. more to other persons, he became bankrupt, and a commission of bankruptcy was issued out against him: and that afterwards, viz. on the 5th of April 1712, he did withdraw himself from the said creditors, with intention to defraud them, and did remove, and feloniously and fraudulently conceal, and carry away fifteen ton of tallow, valued at 400l. and 400l. in money numbered; as also his debt books, and

and books of account, the said William Thomas, and other his creditors, to defraud, contrary to the statute in that case made and provided. To which indictment he pleaded Not Guilty.

The Council, on opening the indictment, informed the Jury, that the statute was very express, that if any person, being a bankrupt, after April 1707, did fraudulently conceal, embezzle, or make away goods, or money, to the value of 20l. he or they should be guilty of felony. Then the witnesses were called.

Mr. Bromwich deposed, that the prisoner followed the trade of a Tallow-chandler; and had told him he was going to Holland, or elsewhere; and that he also saw some of the tallow packed up in order to be shipped off.

In order to prove the debt, William Dee deposed, that the prisoner, on the 14th of March, 1712, bought divers goods of William Thomas, to the value of 150l. which goods were by his order packed up and sent away, and were afterwards shipped for Holland.

Mr. Jefferis deposed, that he delivered in November 1711, a great quantity of tallow, amounting to above 100l. worth at that time above forty shillings per hundred weight, for Mr. Vos and partners, to which also the prisoner was debtor.

One Mr. Town deposed, that he having seven hogsheads of Jamaica pepper in a warehouse of the prisoner's, that the prisoner, unknown to him, and without his consent, sold the same for seventy pounds about the time he went off, and carried the money with him.

To prove the bankruptcy, it was deposed, that the prisoner withdrew himself from his habitation about three o'clock in the morning, on the 5th of April.

Mr. Hodgson deposed, that he being sent by the commissioners in a statute of bankrupt, in quest of the prisoner, he took him on the 17th of April at Sandwich; where, searching him by virtue of a warrant from the commissioners, he found in his pocket twenty guineas in gold, and five pounds seven shillings and six-pence or thereabouts in silver, and three gold rings on his fingers; and that he took from him the guineas, five pounds in silver, and the rings, and left him the odd shillings to himself: that afterwards he asked the prisoner how it came about, that he had no more money when he went on board? To which he answered, that he had more money when he went on board, but being sea-sick, and going to ease himself at the ship-side, he dropped eight hundred guineas, which were in two bags in his bosom, between his coat and waistcoat, into the sea. This was strengthened by his own examination before the commissioners, wherein he acknowledged upon oath, that on the fourth of April (the day before he went away) he ordered Thomas Norris to carry away his books of accounts, plate, and papers of great value, and a large quantity of tallow, which he then believed were arrived in Holland: that on the 5th he went away, in order to go to Ostend, but when he came to the sea-side, found the Amsterdam fleet was sailed, and therefore he and Norris went on board the packet-boat, and the weather being rough, he was sea-sick, and lost his 800 guineas out of his breast;

and

and the packet-boat being beat back by the winds, he was taken at Sandwich, but Norris got off. He then owned likewise that he had shares in several ships, as an eighth part in the ship *Fortitude*, a fourth in the *John*, and in divers other ships and vessels. And also said, that he had two notes of William Thomas's (the prosecutor) unaccounted for; one for 700l. and the other for 100l. but did not produce any or either of these notes to the commissioners.

The prisoner, in his defence, pleaded, that he owed Thomas nothing, nor dealt with him but for ready money, and that Mr. Thomas had a note of his for 500l. which sum he was to pay away for him, but had not done it; and therefore reckoned him debtor for so much. To which Mr. Thomas replied, that there was an account of 1400l. due to the bank which he was concerned with the prisoner in; and that there being 900l. paid, the prisoner gave him the 500l. note to secure him; so that in truth the debt was due to the bank, to whom he was answerable, and not any way to the prisoner.

However, he still insisted he owed Mr. Thomas nothing, and that the commission was maliciously taken out against him, Thomas owing him great sums of money, and particularly the two notes he had mentioned in the examination; which notes, the prisoner, with a great deal of urgency, did at last produce, and were handed into court, and shewed to Mr. Thomas, with some other notes pinned together, which he looking on, solemnly denied the two notes; and which being afterwards viewed by the Judges and Jury, it appeared plainly to them

that Mr. Thomas's hand was counterfeited, and that the body of the notes was written by the prisoner.

The prisoner then called one Mr. Forward, who had received notes under Mr. Thomas's hand for 665l. from one Whitely in Holland, who had them from Norris: but that appeared very frivolous, the notes having been accounted for between Thomas and Town; and the balance of that account was delivered into court by Mr. Thomas, the counter part of which, he said, was in the prisoner's custody, who producing one that he pretended to be such, that also was found to be a counterfeit.

One Mr. Walker, being called by the prisoner, deposed, that he being appointed by the commissioners to inspect the accounts between Mr. Thomas and the prisoner, he acquainted Mr. Thomas with it; who said, he would not go and see the prisoner, till he saw him go to be hanged. He also mentioned the notes which Mr. Thomas had before denied.

The prisoner then called some people to prove as to the goods sent away, that he used to ship tallow and other goods to Holland and other places. A porter particularly swore, that Mr. Thomas told him, it was Norris that bought the goods he charged the prisoner with: but it being said, that Norris and the prisoner bought goods in partnership; and proved before, that those in question, were packed up, and delivered by the prisoner's order, this evidence availed not much.

Another evidence deposed, he had shipped off goods for the prisoner, at his wharf, but said also he had been a considerable loser by him in other things.

He then called several people to his reputation, but had the misfortune either to have them not appear, or if they did, to say very little to his purpose.

One Mr. Morgan particularly, being against his will prevailed upon by him to speak, said, he was as great a rogue as any in England, or words to that effect; so that his whole defence was nothing to the disproof of the crime he was accused of.

During the trial he was desired by the court to produce his books; to which he answered, that he could not do it presently, but that they were in town. And awhile after, the same thing being put to him again, he said he could not do it, for they were not in the kingdom; so that it plainly appeared he had no intention to produce them.

Then the chief Justice gave his opinion and instructions to the Jury; wherein he observed, that the statute says, conveying away money or goods to the value of twenty pound, in such a case, is felony. That it was proved he had more money taken upon him, and had concealed and made away 800 guineas, and a great quantity of tallow: but that the conveying the tallow no way affected him; for being accustomed to ship off such goods, that was no proof of fraud.

His lordship was of opinion, that what was read in his examination before the commissioners of bankrupts, ought not to be taken in evidence against him, because a confession taken in evidence ought to be voluntary, and those before such commissioners are not so. He also observed that the debts were fully proved, and that the

notes and counterpart of the accompts seemed to be written by another hand than Mr. Thomas's; and that the prisoner to clear himself of felony, had almost proved himself guilty of forgery: that he had given no account why he carried the goods and money beyond sea, and that sending his books away, and refusing to produce them, appeared plainly a design to defraud his creditors.

Upon hearing the whole matter, the Jury found him guilty of felony, and he received sentence of death accordingly.

The Ordinary's account of him is as follows: He said he was an Oxfordshire man, and just forty-one years of age. At first he had but little to say for himself; only that he did not intend to be unjust to any man; but his adversaries were bitter against him, and took what opportunity they could to ruin him. Upon this I told him, he was fairly tried, and justly condemned, and must die; and therefore his present concern was, to make his peace with God and man, and clear his conscience by repentance towards God, and satisfaction to all men he had wronged, so far as he was able to discharge this great indispensable duty. But whether he heard me or no, I cannot well tell; for he seemed to be very deaf; that though I spoke as loud as I could to him, yet he gave me no answer to the purpose; but taking a small book in his hand that lay by him concerning death and judgment, he said, "This is a very good book." I told him it was so, and wished him to make a good use of it, and prepare for his approaching death, and the unavoidable judgment that would follow it.

Before his condemnation, he had a chamber by himself in the press-yard; but when he had sentence passed upon him, he was, with his fellow-condemned, put into the hold, where, he said, he contracted such a cold, that his deafness was now returned upon him. On his complaining of the uneasiness of the place, and the little convenience he had there to recollect himself, and prepare for another life, he was soon after removed to his former room in the press-yard, but instead of mending there, he grew worse, his weakness and deafness increasing to that degree, that he could hardly understand me, nor I him.

Some time before his death, having partly recovered his hearing, he came to chapel and attended at prayer: but would not confess himself guilty, saying, the world should hereafter know better what he has been, than they now do, and that one certain person whom he had charitably relieved and saved from ruin, had been the chief cause of his. Adding, that indeed those he was most kind to, had been his greatest enemies; but he died in charity with them, praying God to forgive them, and him also, who (he acknowledged) had been too eager to make himself rich in this world, and too remiss in the service of God.

As he was riding in the coach with me to the place of execution, he said, that this was a remarkable day to him, for on that day he was born. Upon which I took occasion to mention that saying of Solomon, "that the day of death is better than the day of one's birth;" shewing him, that by our birth we enter into a world of sin and misery, but by our death are delivered

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delivered out of it, and admitted (if well prepared) into a state of bliss and glory which shall never end."

At the place of execution he spoke to this effect, " That he died with a clear conscience, " that he had been very much abused by some " he had shewed great kindness to, and that he " would let the world know it by a paper he " had left behind him."

He was executed at Tyburn, December 12, 1712.

The Trial and refractory Behaviour of WILLIAM JOHNSON, and JANE HOUSDEN, convicted of murdering Mr. Spurling the Turnkey.

WILLIAM JOHNSON, otherwise HOLLOWAY, was indicted at the Old Bailey, July 6, 1711, for stealing a bay gelding, the property of the Lord Pierpoint; and being convicted received sentence of death, but obtained a reprieve, and afterwards a pardon, on condition of transportation: but not having patience to stay for a regular enlargement, broke out of Newgate; and on the 10th of September 1712, his consort, Jane Housden, being to be tried for coining, he had the confidence to come to the Old Bailey, during the Sessions-time, and was there drinking within the wall by the hold. Upon which one of the turnkeys went with a constable, and a warrant from the

the Lord Chief Justice Parker, and told him, he must take him into custody, but he refused to surrender himself. Upon which the constable shewed him his authority, which he also refusing to obey, was seized by one belonging to the prison, with whom he struggled a pretty while, till they were both down together; at which time a pistol (which he had before in his hand) was beat down to the ground: but after a while he got up again, and had got his pistol, and being still held fast by the person who seized him, though very strong and unruly, a prisoner who was in the place, caught hold of one of his arms, by which he was something mastered, and got in at the door of the hold, when Mr. Spurling coming to help the others to get him in quite, he fired over the shoulders of him who had seized him, and then had him about the middle, and shot Mr. Spurling in the breast, so that he instantly died. For which an indictment was brought against him immediately; and also against Jane Housden; and they were both tried, he for the murder, and she for aiding, abetting, and comforting him in the commission of the same murder.

The evidence against him deposed the circumstances above mentioned; and against Jane Housden, that she beat and kicked the person who first seized him, and had him down, and used all violent means possible to procure his escape; and also that when the pistol was out of his hand upon the ground, she conveyed it to him again, and that was the very pistol that killed Mr. Spurling.

They made but a trifling defence, and on a full hearing, were both found guilty of wilful

wilful murder, and received sentence of death.

The Ordinary, in his account of him says, he denied his being guilty of that murder, saying, he had no pistol in his hand, for ought he knows, and though he had, it was far from his intent to have killed Mr. Spurling. Upon this I told him, that suppose he had no design particularly on Mr. Spurling's life, yet he could not disown his having malice in his heart so as to do some mischief, if not to him, yet to somebody else. To which he answered, that his coming then to the Old Bailey was to see Mrs. Housden, and other friends that were at that time in the place, and to drink with them. If what he said was true, I desired to know of him the reason he had to come with those two pocket pistols loaded with slugs, that were found upon him? Here he was at a stand for a-while, and then said, he carried those pistols about him ever since he (some weeks before) broke out of Newgate, where he was only detained for his fees: which fees, he said, he paid after his escape, and was free to go about his business, without any danger of being apprehended. I told him I thought this seemed inconsistent with truth; for if he thought himself in no danger, for what purpose did he carry loaded pistols about him? he only replied, he intended no hurt to any body.

When under condemnation he owned himself guilty of stealing a bay gelding, and then gave me this farther account of himself; that he was thirty-three years of age, born at Grafton in Northamptonshire, had followed divers callings, being sometimes a butcher in Newport-market, sometimes a grasier in the country, at another time

time a printer of calicoes, and afterwards kept a corn-chandlers shop in Long-acre, and then removed to Southwark, where he kept a victualling-house in the parish of Christ-church ; that he had also practised surgery both there and at sea, where he was in the Queen's service ; and being carried to Gibraltar, was admitted a Surgeon's mate in the English garrison there ; and though he owned he had led a very ill life, yet he was then unwilling to make any particular confession, and having obtained a pardon in June, had shewed himself most unworthy of it. I asked him, whether he was concerned in the murder of 'squire Hanson, or that of Mr. Carleton, who some years before were found dead in the fields, viz. the former near Hoxton, and the latter not far from Canbury-house? to which he answered, he knew nothing of these matters ; and likewise pretended to be ignorant of this murder for which he suffered ; saying, over and over again, that he could not tell how it happened, neither was he in the least sensible he had any pistol then in his hand, and shewed but little signs of true repentance.

As to Jane Housden, the Ordinary says, she would make no confession at all, either of her older or newer sins. When I put her in mind that on the 18th of August 1702, she was committed to Newgate for High Treason, viz. for counterfeiting the current coin of the kingdom ; that she was to have been tried for it at the Old Bailey in September following, but at her desire her trial was put off to the ensuing sessions ; that she being found guilty of the said fact, received sentence of death the 15th of October following : when I put her in mind of these

things, she owned indeed, that she was then condemned to die, but denied what she then confessed to me, viz. her guilt of that offence. When I further endeavoured to make her sensible of the mercy shewn her in the pardon granted her afterwards, and that instead of improving it as she ought to have done, she had returned again to her old sinful way, and therefore had a second time sentence of death passed upon her the 9th of September 1710, and again obtained a pardon the 6th of June following; she said, she had not deserved death, for she was innocent; and denied likewise the justice of her commitment the 13th of August following, when she was brought to Newgate on a fresh suspicion of coining, but was not tried for it, she being unhappily concerned in the murder with Holloway, which prevented that trial. She shewed no great remorse or repentance for her sins, but denied them all, nor would she be put in mind of them, nor receive any Ghostly advice.

They were both hanged on a gibbet erected for that purpose, in view of the Old Bailey, September 19, 1712.

*The Trial of JOHN HAMILTON, Esq. for
the Murder of Charles Lord Mohun,
and James Duke of Hamilton and Bran-
don.*

COL. JOHN HAMILTON being brought to the bar on Thursday the 11th of September 1712, in order to be arraigned, a writ of appeal was

was delivered to the Sheriff, at the suit of the lady Mohun against the said John Hamilton, for the murder of her lord; and several learned Council moved that his trial, at the suit of the crown, might be suspended, and give way to the writ of appeal; which being opposed by other Council, and arguments used on both sides, the court was of opinion he ought to be tried upon the indictment; which was accordingly done on Friday, in the following manner.

JOHN HAMILTON, Esq. of St. Martin's in the Fields, was indicted for the murder of Charles Lord Mohun, Baron of Oakhampton, on the 15th of November last, by comforting, aiding, abetting, and assisting the most noble James Duke of Hamilton and Brandon, and George Macartney Esq. in giving the said Lord Mohun a mortal wound in and upon the right side of his body, near the short ribs, of the breadth of one inch, and the depth of fifteen inches, of which he instantly died.

He was also indicted upon the Coroner's inquisition for the same murder.

Another indictment was brought against him for comforting, aiding, and abetting the said Charles Lord Mohun, and George Macartney, at the same time and place, in murdering the said James Duke of Hamilton and Brandon aforesaid, by giving him one mortal wound on the left part of the breast, near the left pap, of the breadth of three quarters of an inch, and the depth of twelve inches; and another indictment likewise upon the Coroner's inquisition for that murder.

To all which he pleaded, Not Guilty.

Rice Williams, footman to the Lord Mohun, deposed, that on Thursday the 13th of November, his Lord and Duke Hamilton met at a Master in Chancery's chambers, in Chancery-lane, between six and seven in the evening; and that a paper being there read, wherein one Whitworth had given evidence, Duke Hamilton said, he, meaning Whitworth, had neither truth nor justice in him; to which Lord Mohun answered, he had as much truth as his Grace, or to that purpose: that Duke Hamilton made no reply, and soon after went away; and a while after, Lord Mohun came, and passed by the Duke as he was making water, but neither spoke to the other: that afterwards his Lord went to White's chocolate-house, and from thence supped at the Queen's-arms in Pall-Mall, and then went home, and gave his orders to let nobody speak with him next morning but Macartney; who not coming, his Lordship went to Macartney's lodgings, where he staid about half an hour; and afterwards he and Macartney went to the Duke of Marlborough's and continued there about the same time: that in the same house where Macartney lodged, there was also one Col. Jos. Churchill, to whom the evidence told, that he was apprehensive there was to be a quarrel; and a while after his Lord checked him severely for talking after that manner: that after they came from the Duke of Marlborough's, Lord Mohun went to Serjeant's Inn, where he was about half an hour, and then dined at the Globe in the Strand, with the said Col. Churchill, Sir Robert Rich, and Macartney, and after dinner went away.

The

The witness called at the Globe at five (having been sent of an errand) but they were gone, and he afterwards found them at the play, that Lord Mohun supped that night at the Queen's Arms with the Duke of Richmond, Colonel Churchill, Sir Robert Rich, and Macartney. After supper Macartney sent the witness to his lodgings, and when he came back again, they were all gone, he could not find his Lord all that night.

On Saturday morning about seven o'clock, having still a suspicion of mischief, he went towards Hyde-park, and saw Duke Hamilton's coach going that way, whereupon he followed it, and with some difficulty got over the park-wall, that he might not be seen, but by that time he came up to the place were they were engaged, he saw both the Lords fall, and two gentlemen (whom he took to be the seconds) by them; the one he knew to be Macartney, but could not be positive the prisoner was the other; but that the other said, we have made a fine spot of work, or to that purpose; and that his Lord being helped up, reeled about two yards, and then fell, and died presently.

John James, drawer at the Globe, swore that Lord Mohun, Macartney, Sir Robert Rich, and Col. Churchill, dined there the 14th; that after Dinner Macartney went out, and when he came in again, talked privately with Lord Mohun, and then he went away, and his Lordship returned to the company, but staid but a little while, and went in the same coach with Macartney; that Churchill and Rich staid an hour, an Mohun and Macartney came and asked for them when they were gone.

Isaiah Lison at the Rose tavern in Covent-garden, deposed, that on the 14th of November the Lord Mohun, and a gentleman in grey came thither: and being shewed a room, asked if Stars and Garters used the house; to which he answered, they did sometimes. Upon which they told him, the Duke of Hamilton would be there presently; bid him when he came, to shew him a room, but not to bring him into theirs: That awhile after the Duke came, and another gentleman with him, and the Duke asked for Macartney, and the gentleman in grey, who hearing him, came to him, upon whose coming, the gentleman with the Duke went away, and the witness carried in a bottle of wine, and they bid him go, for they would help themselves. That the gentleman in grey went several times between the Duke and Lord Mohun; and then the gentleman came again to Duke Hamilton, and they went away together, but the witness could not say it was the prisoner who was with the Duke.

Joseph Hipsley, the Duke's porter, deposed, that on the day aforesaid, in the morning, Macartney's man came to enquire if the Duke was stirring, being asked what he wanted, said, he came from a gentleman in the North; and afterwards he came himself, told his name, and said, he had important business from the North to communicate.

After which the Duke went out, and came home again about one; and the witness told him who had been to ask for him, and to know where he might see him at four o'clock; at which time Macartney came again, and was with the Duke about a quarter of an hour: af-
ter

ter which the Duke went out, and came in about six, and Col. Hamilton with him, and they dined together and then went out again, and the duke came in again about eight, and staid all night.

The evidence being asked whether the prisoner used to dine there, answered, very frequently.

John Lesly, the Duke's footman, swore, that on the 14th about five in the evening, the Duke went in a Hackney-coach to the British Coffee-house, and sent him for the prisoner, who came into the coach, and went into the Rose tavern, where he bid the witness stay by the coach, while he and the prisoner were together: that the next morning by six o'clock, he was sent to the prisoner to tell him to get himself dressed, for the Duke would call upon him about business; that when he went, the prisoner was getting up, and the Duke called, and took him in the coach, and bid the coachman drive to the park; and he being behind the coach, the Duke called to him, gave him some keys, and directed him where to find a mourning sword, which he brought, and the Duke threw it into the coach, bidding the coachman drive to Kensington, but they got out over against the lodge, and went upon the grass between the ponds, the Duke having charged him to go and stay by the coach; that he, having a suspicion of mischief, was going back, and met Macartney, going towards Kensington; and afterwards met the prisoner, who was going away in the Duke's coach, and told him the Duke was mortally wounded.

Andrew

Andrew Clark, the Duke's coachman, swore, that the duke ordered him before six, to get the coach ready, and when it was done, he retired three or four minutes, and then went and called the prisoner ; and that he then sent the footman (as before) for a sword ; then he drove to the park, and set him down, and (as the footman before) that he saw Macartney come by with his waistcoat buttons all bloody, and in a very melancholy posture, and that he went out of the park ; and then the prisoner came, and he took him into the coach.

Richard Cook, servant at the bagnio, deposed, that the Lord Mohun came in about one o'clock on Saturday morning, and asked for a port-manteau which was left by Macartney's servant, and being shewed a room, the witness pulled off his shoes and stockings, and he pulled off his coat and waistcoat himself ; and afterwards Macartney came, and was put to bed in the same room : that he observed the Lord Mohun to walk in a melancholy posture before he went to bed, and when he lay down fetched a deep sigh, and bid him be sure to call him by six in the morning.

Charles Chabaner of the Bagnio deposed, that Macartney's servant brought the portmanteau at 11 o'clock on Friday morning and asked if there was convenience to lodge two gentlemen ; that Lord Mohun came first, and was in bed before Macartney came, who talked with the witness while he was undressing, and asked him if he did not hate the French, and such like ; but Lord Mohun spoke not a word.

When Macartney was in bed, he bid the witness be sure to call him at half an hour after

six at farthest, for they were to go in a stage-coach. He called them accordingly and got a pot of tea, changed a guinea for Lord Mohun, and then got a coach, they being in great haste, Macartney bid the coachman make haste to Kensington.

John Pennington swore he was called from Bow-street-end to the Bagnio, where he took up Lord Mohun and Macartney, and drove them into the Park; when he came thither he was sent to the lodge for some burnt wine, while they pretended to walk: that afterwards Duke Hamilton and another person came to him, and asked where those were that were brought, and he telling them which way they were gone, they went that way also; whereupon he mistrusted something, and went to the lodge, and called for help; that he saw them go over the ditch, and draw all their swords, but did not see the seconds push, tho' he saw them go to help the two Lords when they were down; that Lord Mohun was brought alive by three people to his coach-side; and after he saw him dead, he followed Macartney, telling him he must pay him, or else go into the coach; but he told him Lord Mohun had a servant there, and faying, he would pay him, he was content.

Joseph Nicholson deposed, that as he was driving a wheel-barrow in the Park, one came from the Lodge, and desired him to come and help, for there was a duel; and having got a stick, he made all the haste he could: But when he came within about thirty paces, he saw Lord Mohun down, and Duke Hamilton fell over him; a gentleman being behind the duke, and another behind the lord, endeavouring to raise them with both their swords drawn, as had also the two

Peers;

Peers; that when he and others came up, the two gentlemen delivered their swords, but the others were not willing to part with theirs; and Lord Mohun's sword was bent in wresting it from him: that the said Lord beginning to faint, Macartney helped to turn him on his side, saying he believed he was sick with bleeding inwardly; and at the same time bid him take notice, that he in grey cloaths and a laced hat endeavoured to part them. The swords were produced, the Duke's and Lord Mohun's were very bloody, and Macartney's was bloody from the point to about twelve inches of the blade, and very much bent; but the prisoner's sword was not bloody at all, nor could the evidence say, he was one of the four.

John Reynolds, who belonged to the lodge, gave an account, that the coachman spoke for wine, and told him the two gentlemen he brought were gone to walk, but the witness was apprehensive that they were gone to fight, and bid the coachman look out, and told him he believed, it was a duel, for he had seen two more come to look for them: whereupon he made all the haste he could, and saw Duke Hamilton throw his cloak off, and Lord Mohun his sur-tout coat; after which he saw but two passes, and then Lord Mohun fell; and the Duke upon him: But before he could get up to them, the two gentlemen came to their assistance, as in the former evidence. He swore he did not see the seconds draw, nor could tell how near they were to the Lords, for the way was bad, and he could not look at them all the while he was going towards them; but when he came up, he assisted

in taking the swords, and the Duke refused to deliver his.

William Morris (a groom) deposed, that as he was walking his horses towards Hyde-Park, he followed a hackney-coach with two gentlemen in it; whom he saw alight by the lodge, and walk together towards the left part of the ring, where they were about a quarter of an hour before he saw two gentlemen more come to them, and after having saluted each other, one of them, who he is since told, was Duke Hamilton, threw off his cloak, and one of the other two, who he now understands was Lord Mohun, his surtou coat, and all immediately drew: That the Duke and Lord pushed at each other but a very little while, when the Duke closed, and took the Lord by the collar, who fell down and groaned, and the Duke fell upon him; that just as Mohun was dropping, he saw him lay hold of the Duke's sword, but could not tell whether the sword was at that time in his body; nor did he see any wound given after the closing, and was sure Lord Mohun did not shorten his sword. He declared he did not see the seconds fight, but they had their swords in their hands, assisting the lords, as before. He was nearest, and saw most of the action; but all the witnesses declared they could not well see the seconds, because the principals were fighting between.

Henry Amy, a surgeon, deposed, that he found Duke H. milton had received a wound by a push, which had cut the artery and small tendon of his right arm; another in his right leg, eight inches long, which he supposed to be by a slash, it being very large; another small one in his

his left leg, near the instep; and a fourth on his left side, between the second and third ribs, which ran down into his body most forward, having pierced the skirt of his midriff, and gone through his caul; that the wound in his arm caused his so speedy death; and that he might have lived two or three days with the wound in his breast, which wound could not be given but by an arm that reached over, or was above him.

He further deposed, that he also viewed the Lord Mohun's body, and found that he had a wound between the short ribs, quite through his belly, and another about three inches deep in the upper part of his thigh; a large wound about four inches wide in his groin, a little higher, which was the cause of his immediate death; and another small wound on his left side, and that the fingers of his left hand were out.

Paul Bouffier, another surgeon, deposed that about a quarter after eleven on Friday night, the 14th of November, a footman came for him to go to Duke Hamilton's but he being in bed, and not well, asked if the Duke was ill, and being told he was not, desired to be excused till morning: that the next morning Mr. Ferguson came to him about seven, and said, the duke would have him take coach, and come to Hyde-park, to dress him if there should be occasion; that not being up, he sent a servant, and some time after went to the Duke's house, and found him dead; that he opened the body, and perceived a wound between the second and third rib, to enter down into the body, inclining to the right side, which could not be given but by some push from above. He said, the issue of blood was the immediate cause of the Duke's death; and being asked it that

that wound in the arm would hinder the holding his sword in his right hand, he answered, he might use that arm for a while, it being the small, and not the main tendon that was cut.

Robert Talbot (Bouffier's man, deposed, that by his master's orders, he went to Hide-Park with Mr. Ferguson, who set him down at the public house, and bid him stay till called for; and that after a while he was called; and found the Duke wounded as before, and upon feeling, found he had no pulse, and soon after died.

Mr. Ferguson gave evidence, that on Saturday November 1st, about seven in the morning, the Duke his master sent for him, and after having made him promise secrecy, told him he had a challenge, and was obliged to vindicate his honour, wherefore he bid him get Bouffier ready to attend in case of need; but Bouffier not being ready, he took his man, and before he came to the Park all was over.

Mr. Mason, the Duke's secretary, deposed, that on the 13th of November, he dined with his Grace, and went afterwards with him to Mr. Orlebar's Chambers in Chancery-lane, where he heard him object against Whitworth, as one who had quite forgot himself about a year ago and was not now to be believed; and that the Lord Mohun was in liquor, and used the words, or to the same purpose, as in Williams's evidence.

The prisoner in his defence said, that the Duke called him to go abroad with him, but he knew not any thing of the matter till he came into the field: and several Noblemen of Scotland, and other persons of quality, who all gave him

After which the Court summed up the evidence, none of which being sufficient to prove the prisoner's knowledge of the duel, the Jury found him guilty of Manslaughter, upon two indictments, and acquitted him of the coroners inquisition: after which he prayed the benefit of the statute, which was granted accordingly.

*The Trial and Confession of FRANCIS GOS-
LIN, condemned for abetting Murder.*

FRANCIS GOSLIN, of the parish of Stepney, was indicted at the Old Bailey, January 16, 1713, that he, together with one John Shaw, were aiding, abetting, comforting, and assisting Robert Furlow in the murder of John Hutton, on the 17th of December foregoing, by cutting his throat, of the breadth of six inches, and the depth of two inches.

It appeared by the evidence, that the prisoner being accused of a robbery, a warrant was granted, and search made after him about Greenwich, where he used to harbour; and while that search was making, the body of the deceased was brought in a boat to Greenwich, and the prisoner's coat found with it all bloody. This stimulating the diligence of those that were in pursuit of him, he was soon taken at a very ill house in Stepney; when being examined, and put in hope of mercy, he discovered his accomplices, confessed that he and the other two had

stolen

stolen the boat, in order to go down the river, he intending to go on board the Chatham man of war at Woolwich: that when they came there, the deceased was upon the shore, and they asked him if he wanted a boat; and he telling them he did for London, they told him they would be going at flood, and bargained with him for two shillings. That after that they carried him (the prisoner) on board the Chatham, and at flood came and fetched him, the deceased being then in the boat with them, and told him they had a chap; and as they were coming up, Furlow bid him take an oar, which he did, and rowed into Blackwall creek; where, as soon as they were come, Shaw knocked the deceased down, and Furlow cut his throat; then they rifled his pockets, and a bundle he had with him, wherein they found a suit of cloaths, and about seven pounds in money, out of which money the prisoner had fifty shillings, and leaving his own coat in the boat, he put on the deceased's cloaths; then they got upon the chalk-stones, turned the boat adrift, and shifted for themselves.

This was the substance of his confession, which he did not much vary from on his trial, but only that when he saw the murder committed he ran away, and Shaw brought him fifty pounds afterwards.

Other evidences deposed, that two fisher-boys finding the boat adrift, towed it to Greenwich, and there the deceased's body was found; and being taken on shore, a certificate was taken out of his pocket from his master, one Brand, Boatswain of the Nottingham, to whom he had served an apprenticeship of seven years, and

by which certificate his name came to be known.

The father of the deceased also appeared, and declared that he had put his son apprentice to one Brand, and produced a letter written by his son from Plymouth, dated the 13th of December, wherein he acquaints him, that he had got a discharge from his master, and that he was coming to London with the first fair wind, and had brought a present for his mother from the Straights. The father was very sure it was his son's hand, but had not seen him for above seven years, nor could be sure that it was he who was murdered.

When the prisoner was taken, he had the deceased's cloaths on his back, which cloaths were taken off, and the coat he left in the boat put on him when he was in custody. His own confession was so very full as to the murder, and the concurring circumstances as to the person murdered, so satisfactory, the Jury found him guilty of wilful murder.

He was a second time indicted for stealing a cloth-coat, value five shillings, the property of John Warren, on the 5th of December.

It appeared that the prosecutor had his coat stole out of his boat, and the prisoner had been seen to wear it on his back, and was the same found with the dead body.

He having no defence to make, was found guilty of that likewise; and received sentence of death.

In the account he gave the Ordinary, he said he was about twenty one years of age, born at Greenwich in Kent; and that he had served his apprenticeship with his father, a waterman, of that

that place, and after that went to sea, and served sometime in the Royal Navy, and at other times a-board merchantmen, for eight years.

He confessed he had lived a vicious life, and committed some small robberies heretofore, as stealing oars, sails, &c. out of watermens boats, barges, lighters, &c. but could give no account of them.

As to this barbarous and bloody fact, for which he stood condemned, he endeavoured to extenuate and lessen the guilt of it, by saying, he did not commit it himself, nor laid violent hands on the deceased; yet acknowledged he so far assisted in it, that while John Shaw was knocking him down, and Furlow cutting his throat, himself was in the boat with them, rowing along, but knew not whether it was a pre-meditated thing, or whether it coming suddenly into their minds, they took that opportunity to do it.

As for himself, he said, he knew nothing before of the man, nor of any design they had, either to murder or rob him, till he saw it done: but owned, that himself took the coat of the poor man, as being better than that he had on, which he left in the room of it; and then they all went away, and left the boat and the dead man in it; Shaw and Furlow giving him forty or fifty shillings of the money.

While he lay under condemnation, he was taken so ill, that one could hardly speak to him, or receive any answer from him. I am sorry to say it, that from his whole behaviour I could not observed he grieved and repented as he should have done.

N. B. Peter Furlow, being soon after apprehended and brought to Newgate, the next day I took him with Goslin into my closet, where Goslin charged him home with the murder of Hutton ; telling him to his face, " that he cut " the said Hutton's throat, after Shaw had " knocked him down and broke his skull." I then asked Furlow what he had to say to that ? he answered, " he never saw John Hutton, nor " John Shaw in his life, nor was then in the " boat with Goslin." But Goslin persisted in his declaration ; and upon my admonishing him to speak the truth, whatever it was, he protested on his salvation, as he was a dying man, " that " this Furlow was the very person that cut Hutton's throat, as he had said before."

PETER FURLOW was tried the next sessions for the same robbery and murder of John Hutton ; but there being no evidence against him but the confession of Goslin, and producing some evidence that he was elsewhere at the time the murder was committed, he was acquitted.

As for John Shaw, he made his escape to sea, and was never heard of afterwards.

The Trial of RICHARD KEELE, and WILLIAM LOWTHER, for abetting a Murder.

RICHARD KEELE, and WILLIAM LOWTHER, were indicted at the Old-Bailey the 10th of December 1713, for aiding, abetting, comforting, and assisting Charles Hough-

Houghton in the murder of Edward Perry, on the 19th of September last, by throwing him down on the ground, bruising him, and giving him a mortal wound with a sword on the left side of his body, of which he languished till the third of October, and then died.

The evidence set forth, that the prisoners, together with Charles Houghton and John Cul-lum, being convicted of divers felonies at the Sessions house in the Old Bailey, were, pursuant to an order of that court, on the 19th of Sept. carried to the house of correction (or Bridewell) in Clerkenwell, there to be kept at hard labour for two years. When they came there, Capt. Boreman thought it proper to put them in irons to prevent their escape; but they swearing they would lose their lives first, fell upon him and his servant, and with irons beat and bruised them in a barbarous manner; Lowther biting off the tip of one man's nose, wounding him on the head, and stabbing him twice with a knife. And having thus used the keepers, broke into the place where the arms lay, and forced them all out of the prison; that being done they swore they would never be ironed, but die one and all.

The deceased being then without the gate, desired them to be peaceable; and coming close to them, Lowther took him by the hand, pretending to be friends, and Houghton stuck him. In the mean time some help and arms were got, and firing upon these murderers, Houghton was shot dead, and the prisoners both wounded. After which all the prisoners endeavoured to make their escape, and several of them got over a wall, but were almost all of them retaken by the

the diligence of Capt. Boreman, and the assistance of his neighbours; Cullum however got clear off.

The surgeon deposed, he did not believe the wound with the sword was the cause of the deceased's death, but rather the bruises he had received which threw him into a fever.

Keele endeavoured to excuse himself, by pretending he would have reconciled the difference; but the court told him, as he had been concerned in opposing the keepers when they were doing their duty, he was as culpable as any of the rest: and they were both found guilty of the murder.

They were a second time indicted, together with Roderick Awdry, Jeremy Rans, and Robert Porter, for breaking the house of Capt. Boreman, and stealing twenty-three pounds in money, the property of Edward Perry.

It was proved that the closet-door in the tap-house was broke, and that Awdry and Lowther were both seen to go into it during the fray; but there not being proof sufficient of that indictment, they were all acquitted: Keele and Lowther received sentence of death.

The Ordinary acquaints us, that Keele denied his being guilty of this horrid fact, saying, he was so far from intending to do that mischief that he did what he could to prevent it; yet acknowledged God was just in inflicting such a punishment upon him, for he had been a loose and wicked liver, though not so bad as the world had represented him. Upon this I said, that he had been once tried and convicted for blasphemy, and another time for felony; for which latter he was sent to that work-house,

where

where Charles Houghton, William Lowther, with himself and others, made a riot, in which Houghton was killed on the spot, himself and Lowther much wounded, and Edward Perry received some mortal wounds, of which he died not long after.

To this he answered, that what I said was true as to the fact itself, but was not chargeable to him, protesting that he was clear of it, because he had no such design as to oppose the officers of that prison in discharge of their duty, though he thought it a heavy thing to have irons put upon him, and to be obliged to be put to hard labour besides. This was all he would confess concerning this matter.

As to other sins he felt his conscience loaded with, he declared he had been much addicted to swearing, drinking, whoring, profanation of the Sabbath, &c. and for these six years past, had kept company with Arabella Thomas, another man's wife.

He said he was about thirty-three years of age, born at Romney in Hampshire, and brought up at Winchester, where he learned the art of making perriwigs; and coming to London, kept a barber's shop in Rotherhithe for six years together; but some difference arising between him and his wife, they parted, which proved the cause of his going astray.

William Lowther said, that indeed he opposed the officers in that workhouse, to which they were sent to be kept to hard labour, when they offered to put him and the rest in fetters, but intended no mischief; so that what happened there was not his fault; and if in the fray and hurry, he was then in, he hurt any one, or did any

thing

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thing which he should not have done, he was very sorry for it, and asked pardon, which tho' he did not expect in this world, yet he hoped to receive in the next; being much concerned that he had not lived that life which he should have done; and that swearing, drinking, whoring, and the like, had been (for some time past) his common practice, into which he was enticed by keeping bad company when abroad, and particularly in Newgate, where being a prisoner for debt, he had then so much conversation with felons, and other wicked persons there, that he really grew worse; yet, he said, he never was a common thief, nor ever took a tryal in his life before September last, when he was convicted of two felonies, which he would not confess himself guilty of; tho', for the smaller of them, the court ordered him to be whipt, and for the other burnt in the hand (together with Richard Keele concerned in it) and were both sent to the said Bridewell, or house of correction, for two years, where that sad accident happened.

Lowther farther said, that he was but twenty two years of age, born at White-haven in Cumberland, and from his tender youth brought up at Newcastle upon Tyne in Northumberland, and that he had used the sea almost ten years, and once was (for a little while) master of a small collier, given him by his father, trading between Newcastle and London, and might have done well if he had kept to that honest employment.

On the morning of execution, they were carried from Newgate to Clerkenwell Green, where they were hanged on a gallows erected for that purpose.

As they were going to speak to the people in their own vindication, they were stopt by the Ordinary, who told them it was more proper for them to apply themselves to God for the pardon of their sins, and the salvation of their souls; which advice they complied with, earnestly praying to God for mercy. Keele then asked the deputy sheriff, whether his body was to be buried, or hung in chains, of which he had some suspicion, by the smith's going to take measure of him and Lowther for their chains, but would not let him do it. He was answered, "Pray, "Sir, don't concern yourself about your body, "but take care of your poor soul." He then fixed his eyes on his book, and never quitted it till the cart drove away.

Being cut down, their bodies were put into a cart drawn with four horses, deck'd with black plumes of feathers, with several party-coloured ribbons; and being conveyed to Holloway, were, on the 24th of December 1713, hung up in chains.

The copy of a letter sent to Mr. Richard Keele, in the condemned hole, the night before he died.

Mr. Keele,

London, Dec. 22, 1713.

I AM heartily sorry for the fatal circumstances you now lie under; and though I have received some injury at your hands, yet I freely forgive you; but as you are a dying man, I beg of you to do me that justice, as to inform Mr. Lorrain, before you leave this world, whether I was guilty, or not, of that most horrid crime of blasphemy, for which I was convicted with you and George Milson at the Old Bailey; for that will be very satisfactory to me, because I may

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may not still lie under the aspersion of ever being thought so profane a person as those ill-minded people who swore against us, represented me on my trial. It now lies in your power to justify my innocence in that matter ; so most sincerely praying God to have mercy on your poor soul, which I hope he will most graciously receive into his eternal rest ; give me leave (after exhorting you to behave like a true and good Christian, the few moments you have to reside on earth) to subscribe myself,

Your humble servant,

B. BOURAGE.

Mr. Keele's Answer.

Mr. Bourage,

I Received your letter, and in answer thereto, I send you this ; that as for the injury you received from me in the quarrel that happened between us, it was your own seeking ; so I hope I have nothing to answer for it : but, however, am glad you forgive it, as lying under such circumstances ; and as for the blasphemy which you and I were swore against wrongfully, you are very sensible, as well as I, that we were all swore against falsely ; so as I am a dying man, I freely clear you as in my company, which I hope you will do me the like justice. This, Sir, is all I can say ; only desire you will pray for my dear soul, which I hope God Almighty, out of his great mercy, will receive into his heavenly kingdom, from

Your humble servant,

RICHARD KEELE.

The

*The Trial of ELIZABETH FARREL, and
MARTHA NORMAN, two Gypsies, for
Felony.*

ELIZABETH FARREL, and MARTHA NORMAN, were indicted at the Old Bailey, 1713, for feloniously stealing six silver salvers, twelve silver spoons, two silver salts, ten silver handled knives, ten silver forks, with a shagreen case, and other parcels of plates, with cloaths and linen to the value of 180l. the goods of John Long, on the 15th of May, 1713.

The chief evidence against the prisoners was Barbara Hudson, the prosecutor's servant, who deposed, that the prisoners came to her, and told her, they had cast her nativity, and found she was born to very good fortune; but the thing could not be accomplished if she did not give them her money and cloaths, which, if she did, a pot of diamonds and gold rings would arise out of the earth for her use. The witness believing them, gave them all she had, which amounted to about twenty pounds.

She farther deposed, that they used to send for her to an alehouse near the prosecutor's; and after they had got her goods, told her, she could not have the benefit of her fortune, without she let them have her master's plate also, for the pot would not arise while there was any plate in the house.

Upon which she appointed them to meet her at the alehouse on such a day, and she would gratify them. They came accordingly, and went to the prosecutor's house, and took the

goods mentioned in the indictment, put them in their laps, and went back with them to the alehouse.

They pretended to the people in the alehouse they had been in Monmouth-street, and bought some old cloaths.

It appeared they left the shagreen case, behind them, which was proved to be the prosecutors'.

The prisoners having nothing material to say in their defence, the Jury found them guilty, and they were burnt in the hand, and sent to hard labour.

The Trial and extraordinary Confession of SARAH CLIFFORD, convicted of Felony.

SARAH CLIFFORD was indicted at the Old Bailey the 11th of September 1713, for feloniously stealing thirteen pounds in money, the property of Richard Hill, from the person of Ralph Stocking.

It appeared from the evidence, that Ralph Stocking, being a drover, was employed by Richard Hill, and had received from him the money mentioned in the indictment. Being much in liquor he was picked up by the prisoner; she called for a coach, and took him in, and carried him to an alehouse near Long-lane, and there gave him strong waters; which, together with what he had drank before, made him dead drunk; that she took the money out of his pocket, and gave the coachman one shilling and six-

six-pence to drive him into Spital-fields market, where she pretended she had lived ; accordingly the coachman drove him there ; then he drove him into White-chapel, and laid him upon a stall, where, in a few hours after, he died.

The prisoner having but little to say in her defence, the Jury found her guilty, and she received sentence of death.

The prisoner being committed to New Prison before her trial, a gentleman going there to view the prisoners, she coming in his way, he asked her, what she was in there for ? To which shereplied, “ For what do you think ? ” said he, “ I cannot tell.” Why, quoth she, “ I picked “ a gentleman’s pocket of a joint-stool, and “ having sold it for nothing, I got drunk with “ half the money, and was apprehended and “ sent hither.”

*The Trial of RODERICK AWDRY, and
WILLIAM WHITE, convicted of Felony.*

RODERICK AWDRY, and WILLIAM WHITE, were indicted at the Old Bailey the 13th of May 1714, for stealing eleven silver spoons, two salvers, two salt-sellers, and other plate, in the house of Thomas Gibson, Gent.

The prosecutor’s servant deposed, that he having been abroad, at his return saw White standing at his master’s door, and going in, found Awdry sitting in the parlour, who told him his lady sent him thither of an errand ; whereupon he seized him and secured White, who had a

silver taken upon him, and the rest of the plate was found upon Awdry.

Awdry had nothing to say in his own defence, but would have excused White, by saying he gave the silver to White to carry for him, and he, meaning White, knew not that he had stole it.

The Jury however found them both guilty upon the new statute.

Being under sentence of death, he gave the Ordinary this account: That he was then about sixteen years of age, born in the parish of Saint Giles's in the Fields; that his father dying while he was young, and his mother marrying again, he was turned out of doors unprovided for, by his father-in-law; that being thrown upon the wide world, he was to seek what course to take to get a livelihood; and that which seemed the readiest was, to pilfer and steal; which he first began with robbing orchards, and then proceeded to greater thefts, insomuch that he sometimes stole plate, at once to the value of 400l. that he had been several times committed to Newgate and the Marshalsea: had been tried at the Old Bailey, and acquitted for want of sufficient evidence; had been twice sent to Tothill-fields Bridewell, three times burnt in the hand, and thrice ordered to Bridewell in Clerkenwell: to which places he no sooner came, but he broke out, and returned to his old trade of thieving.

He further said, he had lived in all manner of lewdness and debauchery; and gave the Ordinary an account of thirty-five robberies, consisting chiefly of plate, jewels, rings, money, and other valuable things, to the amount of several thousand

thousand pounds, all which he had committed, in the day time, and that none of the servants in the houses had been concerned with him; with many other robberies that he could not remember; and all within the space of three years and a half.

He asked pardon of God and the persons he had wronged, which he said was all the amends he had then in his power to make them.

He was executed at Tyburn May 28, 1714, in company with William White and Andrew Harpur.

*Curious and authentic Memoirs of the Amours
of Mr. NOBLE, and Mrs. SAYER, with
his Trial, Conviction, and Execution, for
the Murder of John Sayer, Esquire,
her Husband.*

JOHN Sayer, Esq. of Biddulden, in the county of Bucks, was Lord of that manor, which is 800l. a year, and had other estates to the value in all of 1000l. per Annum, besides his mother's jointure of 100l. per annum. He was as to his person agreeable enough, of a singular easy quiet temper, and honest principles, both as to his neighbours and the public.

In the year 1699, Mr. Sayer married Mrs. Mary Nevil, daughter of Admiral Nevil by his wife Mary, who, since the Admiral's death, married Col. ----- a gentleman of so much bravery and honour, that it is a pity his lot

should not have given him a more deserving woman to his arms.

Mrs. Mary Nevil her daughter could not be reckoned a first rate beauty, but her person did not want charms, and her wit was sufficient to give her the character of an agreeable woman, had her virtue been equal either to her wit or charms.

By the marriage articles, dated the 24th of Jan. 1699, it was agreed, that young Mrs. Nevil's share of the estate devised by the Admiral, which being undivided, was conceived to be better than 3000*l.* besides jewels, should be valued in the settlement as follows: Mr. Sayer on the receipt of 1000*l.* was to settle 50*l.* a year pin money, and 100*l.* a year for every thousand pound of the residue of her fortune to be received by her husband, and to be employed for her by trustees.

It was hardly a fortnight after the marriage was consummated, before the bride kicked her husband, and upbraided him in such a manner, that it was not doubted she would soon procure herself that satisfaction in a lover which she gave hints broad enough were wanting in her husband. Mr. Sayer was fond of her almost to doting, and blind to all her weaknesses.

In about twelve months time, she brought him a daughter, who died in its infancy. His love to her, after she had made him a father, increased so that he thought nothing too good for her, that was in his power to give her. He daily made her liberal presents, took a good house for her in town, in Lisle-street near Leicester-fields, set up a handsome coach and equipage, and tried all ways to soften her towards him. She did not give

give herself the trouble to conceal her disgust, declaring publicly, he was so disagreeable to her, she would never again admit him to her bed. Upon this he took to other women, and as town gallantry is always fatal, poor Mr. Sayer met the punishment in the sin. The man was so plain hearted, that he made no secret of his amour, and his wife and all the family knew for what he took physic. The disease was in time perfectly cured, and not a symptom of it remained.

Whether it was to prevent the scandal and expence of such another adventure, or out of his wife's natural inconstancy, she soon after this unlucky accident admitted him of her own accord to her bed. The ill effects of this good humour of hers broke out in a little while on her side; the cruel disease seized the fair one; how she came by it was a mystery, if the Doctor's word might be taken: Mr. Sayer was a sound man again: the surgeon was ready to give his oath on the success of his art; and yet such is the uncertainty of surgery, or of Mr. Sayer's virtue, the good man was forced, with another course of physic, to pay for the blessing of her embraces.

Madam was not soon appeased; her husband bore the blame of the late disaster, let who will be the cause of it. She once more forbids him her bed, and takes to it a gentleman of the army. That the husband came in now and then to the relief of the Colonel, is not to be doubted, for it is certain the lady was prolific, and about the year 1703, she again made Mr. Sayer a father. For the child's sake, we must be tender how we tread on this ground, and for the Colonel's

nel's sake I shall not enter far into this intrigue, for it will be soon known at whose house Mrs. Sayer was caught, in what manner with the master of it, for which his wife tore her fine head-drefs and ruffles, that had cost Mr. Sayer near sixty pounds. After the birth of the child, she indeed had her passions with more licence, and Mr. Sayer's want of vigour turned (as she thought) the guilt all on his side, for which she, and the two other women that were in the house with him, finely rallied him.

Thus was he perpetually teased and persecuted by them, who hated no man in the world, but those the laws of God and man had obliged them to love and honour. So far did their hatred carry them, that a challenge was contrived between Col. S---, and Mr. Sayer; which, had it taken effect, would at once have rid both the married ladies of the two incumbrances, their husbands. Colonel S--- being in company with Mrs. Sayer, took an opportunity to reprove her for her infidelity to her husband; upon which she returned him such a volley of ill language, that he could not forbear flinging the bottom of a dish of tea at her, part of which flew in her face. This was what the women wanted, and to urge him to it, they artfully wrought up his passion, till it provoked him to that indecency. The mother highly resented the affront offered her daughter, not for reproving her infidelity, but for the insolence of the tea; and the two wives could not rest till they had screwed up Mr. Sayer to such a pitch of resentment, as to demand satisfaction of the colonel. When they got him to agree to it, they took him while he was hot; a challenge was immediately drawn up

in form, and, it is said, by Mrs. Sayer herself, and sent away to the Colonel. Time and place of meeting being appointed, the two gentlemen met, took coach, and were driving towards Montague-house; as they were on the way, Colonel S----- very candidly and ingenuously discoursed Mr. Sayer on the occasion of this dispute, not out of any desire to avoid the duel, every one knowing his spirit and ability, but to prevent the mischief, that in all probability would come of it, to his son-in-law, and consequently to himself. When Mr. Sayer was brought into temper, which was no hard matter to effect, Son Sayer, said he, or to this purpose let us come to a right understanding of this business. 'Tis very well known I am a swordsman, and I should be far from getting any honour by killing you. But come closer to the point in hand; Jack Sayer, thou shouldest know, for all the world knows thy wife and my wife are two----- They want to be rid of us both at once. If thou shouldest drop, they'll have me hang'd for it afterwards. This discourse, so full of truth and reason, opened Mr. Sayer's eyes. The coach drove back again, and the Colonel and his son-in-law parted very good friends, to the great mortification and disappointment of their spouses.

Mrs. Sayer all this while carried matters very swimmingly. The country is the scene of love, and the homely hut, like an homely dish, if it be clean, whets the appetite. I desire the reader to take notice, that this is not so much a digression as he may think it; for I must let him know, it was observed by all the servants in Mr. Sayer's family, that the parson of Biddefield's

delfden's word went further than their master's. I must also be so free with the memory of parson Lucas, as to be very suspicious of certain passages in the stable and the hay-loft, which let the coachman explain if he pleases. The curate was a serviceable man in the family more ways than one; and they remember to this day, they never had so good drink, as when he was so kind as to look after the brewing of it; which office, so free was he from pride, he often condescended to take upon himself. It happened he a while after came to London, fell ill of the small-pox and died of it; which was no great loss either to Biddlesden or my Lady, there being enough ready to supply his place. When he was upon his death bed, he sent to Mr. Sayer, desiring, upon the request of a dying man, that he would come to him. There was some uneasinesses upon his mind, which he would fain have discharged on that gentleman. The wife, who had a good scent, smelt the matter, and would not let her husband go, for truly her mother had not had the small-pox, and if Mr. Sayer went to him, the family would be undone, her mother would surely have them. The good-natur'd creature staid at home, and the parson died without seeing him. But she, all the while he was ill, suffered her footman to go to and fro to the sick man, which will seem to the censorious, to be as bad as if the husband had gone, and as catching for her mother, this footman carrying and bringing messages from the parson to the mother, and from the mother to him. After his death a second Colonel supplied the place of the first, and the curate; and a greater man than both the Colonel or the

Curate, made Madam a present of china, with its appurtenances; which she pretended to her husband she won at Astrop-Wells. I will not make more of this matter than I know of, and so shall leave it.

We come now to that part of this tragedy which introduced Mr. Noble on the stage. He was the son of one Noble of Bath, who kept a Coffee-house, which was well frequented.

As his parents were people of some substance for their condition, they had given him a very liberal education, and with an attorney there was a small estate of sixty pounds a year in the family, and his mother was a woman of so much virtue, she shut the door on him when he came rattling to Bath with Mrs. Sayer in a coach and six. I have heard that his attorney's business, before he was acquainted with her, was of an inferior kind. He was innocently recommended to Mr. Sayer by a gentleman, Colonel S-----, who wished them both well, and could not have believed, Mr. Noble would have acted so ungrateful and inhospitable a part. It was early in the acquaintance with the women of this history, that he had too large a share of their good graces, especially Mrs. Sayer's. I am not so fond of the tale, as to enlarge on the gallantry of it, or I might display several scenes that would make a thousand lovers envy Noble's fortune, till the hour of his imprisonment; for I have heard, that had not some witnesses been spirited away to Ireland, proofs would not be wanting of Noble's familiarity, not only with this one lady, but others in her company, where, without jealousy, the three nymphs have

have at once contended for their vigorous swain, and all three in the same room, disengaged from the incumbrance of dress, ready to receive him.

The two wives thought of other things as well as gallantry; and finding Noble was a fellow fit for business, as well as love, they formed together a project to possess themselves of Mr. Sayer's estate. Mr. Sayer, to purchase at any rate his quiet, consented at last, in the year 1709, to execute a deed of separation, wherein he made over several lands in Biddlesden of 150l. per annum, in trust for his wife, besides fifty pound a year pin-money for her separate maintenance; and in this deed was a covenant or clause, that by the consent of Mrs. Salisbury, first signified under her hand, it might be lawful for Mrs. Sayer to live how, where, and with what man she pleased.

Mr. Sayer covenanting not to sue or molest any person for harbouring her. He was so weak as to trust his wife's council with the drawing up of the deeds, and had none of his own to advise with.

Not long after this, the clause discovered itself in a child born, Mr. Sayer having hardly been within a pair of sheets with madam, since the birth of his son and heir. The lady, it was said, was brought to bed near Bath, at a house provided for her by Noble; and it is supposed the child is still living, and the father of it to be one of the two Colonels that had a part in this intrigue. That the incident of the brat might not make too much noise, a letter was contrived and sent to Mr. Sayer, in August 1710, intimating, that he was pricked down for Sheriff of Bucks. Mrs. Salisbury the mother, to get him out of the way, offered

offered to supply him with money, which he took, and got over to Holland, promising to stay there until the next Lady-day.

A few days before he went to Holland, when he was so lame of the gout he could hardly stir, madam and Noble made him dead drunk with punch, which excess had a better effect than was intended, for it cured him, when the fit was over, of that of the gout. The night before he departed he made Noble a present of a pair of saddle pistols and furniture, worth above 40l. She never wrote him but two letters all the while he was in Holland, and her maid, Jane Terry, sister to James, one of the following evidences, talking to her with concern of the danger her master was in at sea, her mistress replied, "She should be sorry his man James, a poor innocent fellow, should come to any harm; " but she should be glad, and earnestly wished "Mr. Sayer might sink to the bottom of the sea, and that the bottom of the ship might "come out." Of this affidavit was made the 9th of Feb. 1712.

Upon his going away, Mr. Noble took on him more than ever. He obliged the trustees, nominated in the marriage articles, to relinquish, and assumed the authority of a sole trustee. This was pursuant to an order of the Court of Chancery, in a cause there depending between Mr. Sayer, his wife and sister, plaintiffs, and Colonel S----, Mary Salisbury, defendants, and Mr. Noble, solicitor.

The latter, before the cause was verified, made but an ill use of the kind entertainment he met with at Biddlesden, and it has been shrewdly suspected, that he had a warm bedfellow, when the master of the house was forced to freeze in

his lonely sheets; it being sworn, that Mr. Noble was seen to go to bed to Mrs. Sayer.

The 23d of May, 1711, Mrs. Sayer went away absolutely from her husband, and carried off with her in Exchequer bills, tallies, and other effects, to the value of 2000l. Her lodgings were private, but Mr. Noble had, at all times, and at all hours, free access. On the 5th of March 1711, she was delivered of a son by Doctor Douglass; Sir David Hamilton, who had been to visit her some time before her lying-in, was retained, and promised to deliver her, but at the time of her wanting him for that purpose he happened to fall sick, which was the reason she had Doctor Douglas, who was recommended by Mrs. Scoffing, the midwife. Mrs. Sayer being asked by her, why she would be laid by a man? replied, she was always laid by men, and she thought it more their busines than a woman's. Upon Mrs. Sayer's elopement, Mr. Sayer put this advertisement in the Post-Boy of March 1, 1712.

*Whereas Mary, the wife of John Sayer, Esq.
late of Lisle-street, St. Ann's, went away
from her dwelling-house on or about the 23d of
May last, in company with Elizabeth Nevil,
sister to the said Mary, and hath not since
been heard of, and hath carried away near
1000l. in money, besides other things of a con-
siderable value, and is supposed to go by some
other name; he desires all tradesmen and others,
not to give her any credit, for that he will not
pay the same.*

Jane

Jane Terry, before mentioned, swore, in 1711 Mrs. Sayer had a great belly, had milk in her breasts, and looked like a woman with child; she supposing she had taken lodgings at Strand on the Green for that purpose, but as she was pretending to go thither, Noble put her into a coach in Piccadilly, and carried her to the lodgings where she was delivered.

The reader is not to conclude, that all this happiness was entirely reserved for Mr. Noble; he lived well upon it, which was enough for him. His pockets were full of money. When she went from town to country, or country to town, he was generally one of her equipage; and it was no secret to the road between London and her house, what business Noble had at Biddlesden. Whenever he was with her, she was always denied to every one else; though sometimes as soon as he was gone, she would be gone too. I shall not tell the place, nor the company, but she liked it as well as Noble's.

In Michaelmas term 1711, Mr. Noble being the attorney in the cause, Mr. Sayer was taken in execution for 400l. at the suit of the trustee (but without his privity) in trust for Mrs. Salisbury. This was for a judgment confessed by him for form sake, to protect his goods from his creditors, while he was in Holland. The real debt, as Mr. Sayer said, was not above seventy pound; however he turned himself over to the Fleet, and being a prisoner there, opportunity was taken to deliver ejectments in Hillary term following; and in February the same year, Mr. Sayer exhibited his bill in Chancery for a relief against these suits, and the deed of separation, which he obtained. An injunction, and several

insufficient answers, were put in; but before the same were referred, the ungrateful and inhospitable Noble compleated the measure of his crimes, and finished the suit with his death. In this suit Noble forswore himself, at one time swearing he was Mr. Sayer's attorney, at another time that he was not. We have seen how he was in possession of Mr. Sayer's wife, money, jewels, person, and estate. He wore his cloaths, sword, and watch, strutting about in Mr. Sayer's roqueleur, which cost twenty-six guineas. His suits with this poor gentleman were the main of his business as an attorney, not that he wanted qualifications to recommend him to a larger share of it. He had a stock of sense, and had he preserved his character from the indelible stain of this the foulest of actions, the man would have worn a fair reputation, and his conversation been far from contemptible. His chambers were in New-Inn, and there in Michaelmas term 1712, upon oath of Mrs. Sayer's adultery with him, and of her elopement, he was arrested in an action of 500l. with a Judge's order for bail. Of this matter more will be said in Farington the Bailiff's deposition.

The execution Noble had sued Mr. Sayer to, was the occasion of his lying in the Fleet so long. The money his wife ran away with, would have gone a great way to have cleared him of all his debts. His greatest creditor was Mrs. Nevil his sister-in-law, to whom he owed above a thousand pounds. He offered his wife two hundred pounds a year when he was in the Bailiff's hand, but she would not take it; and as if it was not enough to have made him miserable while she lived with him, she, it seemed, resolved

resolved that his misery should have no end but with his life. This made him very industrious to come at her, knowing, that if he could get the possession of her, some of his effects would be saved.

I shall now proceed to the manner of Mr. Sayer's apprehending his wife, with all the ensuing circumstances from the time of taking her, to that of Noble's conviction. It must not be omitted, that some time before Mrs. Sayer was taken, her husband received a letter from an unknown hand, informing him, that the party knew where was the value of six or seven hundred pounds of the jewels his wife carried away with her. Pursuant to the advice of that letter, he met the person at a certain place. Mr. Sayer met him at the Crown-Tavern on Ludgate-Hill, and by that means recovered to that value, one of the jewels being worth 150*l.* He never heard of her from the time of her elopement, till, after much enquiry, a friend of his found out, that Mrs. Sayer had retired into the Mint, they being all of them, the wife, the mother, and the gallant, afraid of the husband's pursuit, and thought that place would be a security. Mr. Sayer was so good humoured, that notwithstanding all this provocation, he wrote several letters to his wife, offering to forgive all past miscarriages, and to be very kind to her if she would return to him.

When his friends had certain information where she was, on Thursday morning the 29th of January, 1712, Mr. Sayer got a warrant from Sir Charles Cox to take up his wife, she being gone from him, and living in a loose disorderly manner. The managers of this affair

took him along with them in a coach to the Mint, where the warrant was put into the hands of two constables, with about half a dozen assistants. At three o'clock in the afternoon they repaired with it to the house of Joseph Twyford, in George street in the Mint, the same man who formerly kep the Bear-Tavern in the Strand. The constables made him sensible, before they came in, that they were constables, and had a warrant to search for a suspected person. A very necessary caution to prevent the cry of an arrest, which would have hindered the execution of the warrant, by raising the mob of the place, who are always ready to vindicate their pretended privileges. Mr. Sayer went in person with the constables to Twyford's house, where Mr. Noble, Mrs. Sayer, and Mrs. Salisbury, were at dinner in the back room. Upon the coming in of Mr. Sayer, and the constables with him, a fray ensued, and Mr. Noble making a pass at him with the door in his hand, ran him into the left breast, and killed him upon the spot.

After the murder was committed in the manner related in the depositions, Mr. Noble, Mrs. Sayer, and Mrs. Salisbury, were all taken prisoners by the constables; and as they were carrying along the Mint, the two ladies were particularly very unruly, crying out on the hard fate of their dear Mr. Noble. A gentleman, who was a spectator of this event, seeing the multitude, began to be moved a little, bad one of the constables assistants advance the bloody sword, and carry it before them, which hindered the rabble's stirring; no creature being so barbarous, as to interrupt the course of justice in a case of blood. However, the two women, who seemed

seemed in no concern but for Noble, so alarmed the standers-by, that the constables were twice or thrice stopt by strangers.

Money enough was offered for his rescue, but the constables carried all three in safety before Ralph Hartley, Esq; a justice of the peace, who, assisted by another justice, took their examination. What reason the clerk of one of those justices had for the difficulties he raised in the examination of the women, and why he was so willing to dismiss them, saying, "Ladies, you may go, and take Care of your Things in the House," we know not; however, due care was taken of them both. After two hours examination, Mr. Noble was committed to the Marshalsea, for the murder of Mr. Sayer. While they were examining him, a certain barrister at law appearing in the behalf of the other prisoners, Mrs. Sayer and Mrs. Salisbury, their case was debated till about ten that night, when they were committed for further examination only.

On Saturday morning the coroner's inquest was taken on the deceased's body, and so adjourned till the Tuesday afterwards; but the corps of Mr. Sayer having been viewed by them, was removed that night from the Mint, to his lodgings in the rules of the Fleet, in order for its interment.

The coroner's inquest having found Noble guilty of wilful murder, and the ladies having been committed for aiding and assisting him in that murder, they were, after six weeks confinement, brought to their trials at Kingston Assizes, of which the following may be depended upon as a just account:

On Thursday evening late, March the 12th, RICHARD NOBLE, MARY SAYER, and MARY SALISBURY, were arraigned for the murder of John Sayer, Esq. upon three several indictments, viz. One against Noble for wilful murder, and against Mary Sayer and Salisbury as aiding and abetting the said murder; one other against Noble upon the statute of stabbing, and the other on the Coroner's inquest.

To these three indictments the prisoners pleaded, Not Guilty.

The Court set them aside, and bid them prepare for their trial next morning by six.

On Friday morning at six the court sat, and the prisoners were brought to the bar, when they made several excuses to get their trials put off till the afternoon, for that Mr. Bull (a very material evidence, as suggested by the prisoners) was not come; the truth of this assertion being demanded by the Court to be made out upon oath by service of a subpæna upon Mr. Bull, the prisoners swore Mr. Lindsey, one of their attorney's, who deposed, that he filled up a subpæna for serving Mr. Bull, but spoke no farther to the serving of it, than that a messenger was sent at twelve o'clock to London to serve it. This device not taking, they alledged Mr. Page the Council, another material evidence, was not come neither, and that he was served with a subpæna, and they looked for him every hour.

To this point Mr. Lindsey was examined again: he swore he served Mr. Page with a subpæna on Sunday last, and that he thought Mr. Page would be at this trial. Upon further examination of him by the Court to this point, the Court was pleased to take such notice of Mr.

Lind-

Lindsey, as to check him severely, and bid him three times depart the Court (having taken notice of his name.) All these pretences failing, the Court proceeded to trial.

The intent of putting off the trial probably was, that the business at the other bar being dispatched at this time, the Juries returned there might be returned home, so more unlikely to have a sufficient number of Jury-men, that by their challenges the trial might be put off till next assizes.

The Queen's council, Mr. Serjeant Comyns and Mr. Nott, opened the indictments, and set forth to the court and the Jury, how heinous the crimes of the prisoners would appear on the evidence: and the first witness they called was Daniel Reeves, who proved that one James Hannon (an Irishman) who stands committed for this offence till the next assizes, on Thursday evening before the trial, came to him, and shewed him copies of the examination taken on the coroner's inquest of Samuel Durham, Thomas Gardner, and John Coe, (three of the Queen's most material witnesses proving the murder.) Hannon then gave him in money half a crown, and desired him to procure or hire two other men to swear with him, against those examinations, and promised him two guineas for himself; the other two men were to have what Reeves could agree with them for, and Mr. Noble would give Reeves a larger satisfaction than he thought of.

On Friday evening Hannon came to him again, and gave him another half crown to spend upon

upon Durham, Gardner, and Coe, and ordered him to make what agreement he could with them to stifle and buy off their evidence, and on Saturday Hannon would bring him part of the money. On Saturday Hannon came to Reeves again, to know what progress he had made, invited him to dinner on Monday, and to bring the other two men Reeves was to hire, with him, he having a note in writing under his own hand, where to find his house, viz. At No. 10. in College-street, Westminster.

On Monday morning Hannon came to Reeves again, gave him a writing in nature of an affidavit, drawn on stamp paper by the prisoners, which he, and the two men he pretended he had hired, were to swear before a Judge, and gave him nine shillings in money then. Whilst Hannon was tampering in this manner with Reeves, the latter intimates it to the prosecutor's attorney, and after he had got this affidavit from him, he excused himself out of his company, and carried it to this gentleman. Reeves shuffled off dining with him, and when Hannon came to him again in the afternoon, Reeves still egged him on with the same warmth till about-----in the evening, when a warrant was procured from Justice Hartley, and instead of two persons who should have been the two that were to forswear themselves, two constables appeared, whereupon Reeves told Hannon, these are my two friends. Hannon embraced them very civilly, and the third constable coming up according to order, Reeves immediately seized Hannon's sword, and asked the constable, do you charge me with this gentleman. They took him directly before Justice Lade, where, upon examination,

he denied the fact, but what he did in relation to the money, he hoped to justify, because the prisoner's council told him he could. Hannon was kept in custody all that night, and committed, for want of bail, to the Marshalsea next morning.

The words of this affidavit follow, viz.

‘ George Smith and Samuel Shipman, both
‘ of the parish of St. Botolph, house-keepers ; and
‘ Daniel Reeves, of the Parish of St. George,
‘ Southwark, maketh oath, that on or about the
‘ twenty-ninth day of January last, these depo-
‘ nents saw Mr. Cox and Mr. Hill, the consta-
‘ bles, with several other persons in company,
‘ with Mr. Sayer, the deceased, to go from Mr.
‘ Sherlock’s house in Queen-street in the Mint,
‘ a brandy-shop, to one Mr. Twyford’s house,
‘ wherein they entered, and on their being asked
‘ what their busines was, refused to tell. And
‘ these deponents heard the deceased Mr. Sayer
‘ (as he went into Twyford’s house) threaten
‘ or say, that he would be revenged on that vil-
‘ lain Noble, and his wife, and that he would
‘ kill them then, or be killed. And these de-
‘ ponents saw the deceased go up stairs and come
‘ down again, leaving both the constables above
‘ stairs ; and on his coming to the parlour door
‘ (where Mr. Noble was) drew his sword partly
‘ out, and said, damn you, you villain, now I
‘ have found you, and instantly pulled at the
‘ said door, and broke off the bolt, that was
‘ within side of the said door, and thereupon the
‘ said deceased, after his sword was almost
‘ wholly drawn out, stepped backwards, and in
‘ about

“ about a minute, went to go down the two steps into the parlour, and seemed to be pushed down, and then some said he was in a fit, and fetched him water. But these deponents said, that those deponents stood very near the deceased, yet could not see, nor do they believe that any other person (considering the situation of the place, and the little door being put part open) could see who gave the said wound. And these deponents further said, they knew Samuel Durham to be a poor necessitous taylor in the Mint, of a most infamous character, and were certain he was not in the house till after the deceased was wounded, and the sword which James Terry (the deceased's footman) and others then present said, gave the said wound, was taken up in the kitchen; and further said, before the deceased broke open the said door, they saw the said Terry with a cane in one hand, and a brass hilted sword undrawn in the other. And lastly, these deponents heard the said Terry abuse the said Mrs. Sayer, giving her very bad words; he also told her, that rather than fail, he would offer his service to the Sheriffs to hang her, and that he would soon see the end of her; and she answered, “ Sirrah, it is hard to be abused by the master and man too.” And these deponents being in the room when the deceased fell down, heard the said Mrs. Sayer say no other words, but believe they should, if she had said any.”

It will presently be perceived, that if Hannon could have got some bold witnesses to have sworn all this he laboured to do, Noble might have come off.

Facts preceding the murder proved by the following depositions.

John Farrington deposed, that he was Bailiff to the Sheriff of Middlesex, and had a warrant delivered him at the deceased's suit against the prisoner Noble: he arrested Noble in his chambers, and when he was arrested, Noble declared and said, *G---d d----n him, if he had Mr. Sayer the plaintiff there, he would stick his sword through his body, and he would do it whenever he met him next*; but when he arrested Noble, he was sick, and the deceased (the plaintiff) ordered the witness not to take him out of his chambers, but to use him civilly. It must not be forgot, that Mr. Noble objected to the bailiff Farrington's evidence for the Queen, saying, he swore maliciously, because when Noble was under arrest, he extorted ten guineas, and for that the next term the prisoner Noble moved the court, and made him refund.

The Bailiff had aggravated the prisoner's guilt by giving out, that when he had him under arrest, Noble said he would send Sayer out of the world the first opportunity; the good man Farrington could not help replying, you have had much of his goods, and lain with his wife, should you do so? Noble answered, *d---n him, he would*.

Jeremy Barnard deposed, he was summoned to Kingston assizes on the Jury upon life and death, and that one Luke Jones, carrying Mr. Stagg an Attorney by water, on Friday the 6th of March, and telling him Jerry was summoned on this Jury, Mr. Stagg ordered him to tell Barnard, if he was not got off, Stagg could

help him to twenty pounds; Jones asked on what account? Stagg made answer, if he would bring in the gentleman that killed the man in the Mint, Not Guilty, they having a thousand pounds and upwards, and would spend it all on the Jury to save his life, for it lay in the breast of the Jury only, because they had been with the Queen to get a pardon but could not get one.

Luke Jones was called next, and proved the same: then the tipstaff was sent for Mr. Stagg, but he could not be found, a summons was ordered to be taken out against him to appear before the Lord Chief Justice in London. These ill practices being discovered to the Court, the Jury summoned on this trial were set aside, and a Jury called from the Nisi Prius bar, each Jurymen called was sworn to his freehold and copyhold of ten pounds per annum, and whether they were not wrote or applied to on behalf of the prisoners at the bar; then the three prisoners challenged peremptorily to the number of seventy-five, viz. Mr. Noble challenged twenty, Mrs. Salisbury twenty, and Mrs. Sayer thirty-five, as indicted for Petit-Treason. After this number challenged upon oaths administered, two appeared to have been applied to on behalf of the prisoners, and were set aside by the Court. The Jury being sworn, the witnesses for the Queen were called.

Justice Peters depos'd, that in 1709, a duel was stirred up by the contrivance of Mrs. Salisbury and Mrs. Sayer, between their two husbands, the deceased and Colonel Salisbury, and the challenge sent by Mr. Sayer; but when they met upon it, the Colonel very readily told his

son

son Sayer that the design of this was only that their two bad wives might be at once both rid of their husbands, viz. that the Colonel being a swordsman might kill Sayer, and afterwards be hanged for it.

Joanna Manley deposed, that in August 1710, after Noble's acquaintance with Mrs. Sayer, the deceased went into Holland and returned about Lady-day, during which Time Mrs. Sayer was big with child, and her mother and Mrs. N---- privy to it: and during Mr. Sayer's absence the witness several times saw the two prisoners, Noble and Sayer in bed together. Her mistress (Mrs. Sayer) desired her to give her master some poison, and if this witness would, her mistress would get it her.

Pen. Holwell, their servant, deposed, that she was sent by the prisoners for two-penny-worth of Laudinum, to make the deceased sleep; and bringing word from the Apothecary, that quantity was enough to make any person sleep their last sleep, the three prisoners interrupted her, and bid her hold her tongue her slut, but give the whole dose to her master, and say nothing to him.

Ann Scoffin, the midwife, deposed, that Mrs. Sayer, on the 5th of March, 1711, was delivered of a male child by Dr. Douglass: she passed for a widow, and Noble and she for brother and sister. This child was nurſed at Hoxton, and died and was buried there in a little while. That Mrs. Sayer was delivered at a court in Brooks street, Holborn, with a large patch on one side of her face, and the other side of her face lay on the pillow. That there was great familiarity between them, and that the

child, in her opinion, was very like Noble, and she believed him to be the father of it.

Mr. Marten being supæna'd, and sworn, said, he knew Noble and Mrs. Sayer: Noble desired him to take convenient lodgings for her to lie in at, which he did, and she was delivered of a male child about the 5th of March, 1711, by Doctor Douglass in the presence of Mrs. Scouffing the midwife, at a house in a court in Brooks street, Holborn.

Facts proving the Murder.

Francis Cox. That he is one of the constables of the parish of St. George the Martyr, in the Borough of Southwark: that on the 29th of January last, the deceased John Sayer, Esq; with two other gentlemen, came to his house with a warrant from Sir Charles Cox, for taking into custody the body of Mary Sayer his wife, who, Mr. Sayer said, was gone from him without his consent: that as he went to execute this warrant, he called one Thomas Hill, another constable, to assist him; after which they went into the Mint, and this witness being informed by Mr. Sayer that he believed his wife was at Twyford's house in George-street in the Mint, this witness having found out Twyford's house, he knocked at the door, and Twyford came, but refused opening the door at first, till the said Mr. Cox told him he was a constable, had a warrant, and was come to search for a suspected person in his house, and that he would not hurt a hair of his head. Twyford opened to them the door, the constables beckoned to their assistants, and they all went in, Mr. Sayer running

ning after them: the two constables and Mr. Sayer went up stairs, and there the deceased said he saw some of his wifes cloaths, and then said he believed she was in the house: and whilst this witness went into the other little room, Mr. Sayer and the other constables were gone down stairs; and before this witness got down, he heard a great noise and screaming out in a room below; whereupon making great haste down, the other constable, and seyeral others, cried out to him, Mr. Sayer is dead, and the gentleman that killed him was breaking out backwards to make his escape; thereupon this witness went round the house into the garden to secure him, where he found a naked sword in the hand of Mr. Sayer's footman, eight or nine inches, and Mr. Noble, Mrs. Sayer, and Mrs. Salisbury, being in the room tog ther, he apprehended them all three, and carried them before Ralph Hartley, Esq; Justice of the peace.

Thomas Hill, the other constable, spoke to the same purpose, of his going with a warrant to Twyford's house; that Mr. Sayer went down first, and he followed him at the foot of the stairs; there being a door leading into the back room: Mr. Sayer laid hold on the door and pulled it open, and immediately the deceased fell a little back, and laid his hand on his own sword, but did not draw it above a foot for want of strength. This witness pushing into the room before Mr. Sayer, Mrs. Salisbury fastened on his collar, and endeavoured with all her might to keep him out of the room, and as soon as he had get in, Mr. Sayer followed immedately, fell down, and never spoke more; there were only Mr. Noble, Mrs. Sayer, and Mrs.

Salisbury

Salisbury in the room, and Noble was breaking the glass door to make his escape. The deceased being on the ground, the witness thought him in a fit only, and Mrs. Sayer said 'twas only a sham, and he was not hurt, but he presently saw a wound on Mr. Sayer's left side, whereof he immediately died, and believes Noble gave the wound with his own sword, which was bloody, and no other sword drawn all the time. Mrs. Sayer desired him to be civil to Mr. Noble, whom he had then apprehended, but she took no care of her husband.

James Terry, servant to the deceased about eight years. Staying below in the kitchen, Mr. Sayer came down first, and laid his hands on the top of the door, at the stair-foot going into the parlour, and endeavoured to pull it open; but as soon as it was a little way open, he saw a naked sword come through against his master's body, and his master fell back into this witness's arms, and clapping his hand to his left side said, I am dead, or killed, or such like words. The sword was left in his master's body, and fell on the ground, and verily believes his master received a wound on the left side of his body, of which he instantly died. The witness took up the sword which had a mourning hilt, and seeing Twyford to go round into the garden, followed him, where he heard the glass windows break, and saw the back door open; Mrs. Sayer in the garden, Mrs. Salisbury standing on the door step, and his master lying on the ground: he said to his mistress, "Lord, Madam, what have you done? My Master is dead, you have killed him. His mistress told him, Ah! you Rogue, I'll be revenged of you too." Afterwards he

saw

saw the wound on his master's left side near the left pap, which he probed, and was four or five inches deep. This witness further deposed, that his master had no sword drawn at the time he received the wound, nor afterwards; and that no words passed between him and the party that gave the wound.

Thomas Gardner, constable's affiant. That there being a door at the foot of the stairs, he saw Mr. Sayer lay his hand on the door, and endeavour to pull it open; as the door was a little open, he saw Noble in grey cloaths within the room, and a naked sword in his hand, thrust at the deceased through the open part of the door, and give him a wound on the left side of his body, and Mr. Sayer had no sword drawn, neither did any words pass between the deceased and him that gave the wound; but the deceased afterwards endeavoured to draw his own sword, then by his side in the scabbard, but could not pull it above half way out for want of strength, and immediately fell down, and as he was falling the witness heard Mrs. Sayer say, "that the deceased had a great many sham fits, and that this was one of them, or such like words;" and when the constables were taking the prisoners away, Mrs. Sayer asked Noble, "My dear, have you got my watch?" he answered, my dear, I have it in my pocket.

There were several other witnesses, who all deposed to the same effect, particularly Capt. Alkern and Mr. Anthony Sherlock, who swore that Twyford should say, he told Noble he might go a way if he pleased.

The witnesses for the crown being all examined, the prisoner Noble made a long defence for

for himself: he had given the court abundance of trouble, the reason has been before noted, and when it came to his turn to plead his own cause, and that of the other two prisoners Mrs. Sayer and Mrs. Salisbury, he did it like a man who deserved a better one. ‘ The deceased Mr. Sayer used his lady most barbarously; that he beat her, called her names, gave her the foul disease: he aggravated his carriage towards her in the most provoking manner he could; saying, he would make out the truth of his assertions by proofs: he set forth the deed of seperation and the marriage articles, arguing, that upon those deeds he did not question the prisoner (Mrs. Sayer) would be thought a person sole and apart from the deceased at the time of his death: that Mr. Sayer could not pretend his widow had robbed him, and run away with his jewels, &c. she having a right to them, they being reserved her by her marriage articles: that the deceased could have no pretence to retake either them or his wife; for as to her, she was lawfully seperated, she was forced to go from him on account of his ill usage of her. He justified his being in Mrs Sayer’s company as her attorney and trustee; that he was then with her about business in private, when an extraordinary noise and confusion of a crowd of people in the house, together with the deceased’s breaking open the door, pulling off the bolt and one hing of it, surprized him and the prisoners: that they all retired to the back door, which not being able to get open, and a further terror and confusion arising from such a desperate place as the Mint, seizing them, the prisoner Noble stabbed the deceased:

deceased: he owned he knew before hand Mr. Sayer was in the house; that indeed is true (said he) and he did not at all doubt of justifying what he had done, even with all these dangerous circumstances, the rather for that the deceased came with a warrant so very ill grounded, and he knew he sought for his life, he having before drawn his sword on him, and brought a pistol to his chambers on purpose to shoot him: he set forth how he was recommended to Mr. Sayer's business, his management of hers as her attorney and trustee: that he had often endeavoured and solicited an accommodation; that the articles of separation were before he was employed as an attorney: he insisted, that in the course of his endeavour for a reconciliation, Mrs. Salisbury had engaged him to Mrs. Sayer, her daughter, that very day to solicit it.

This is the substance of what he urged in his defence: the prisoners then called their witnesses, and proved the executing the marriage articles and deed of separation. It was observable, that there were crowds of people whom they had engaged to be there on purpose to make a hurry, and embarrass the court; some have thought between two and three hundred people. The substance of their first witness's evidence was,

That the deceased some time ago broke open the door upon the prisoner (Mrs. Sayer) to kill her with his penknife; that this witness was privy and acquainted with Mrs. Sayer during Noble's conversation with her, and never knew her to be with child, or that she seemed bigger than usual: that the prisoner (Mrs. Sayer) before her acquaintance with the prisoner Mr. Noble, endeavoured

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endeavoured for a divorce in Doctor's-Commons; that the deceased several times beat his wife, and sometime since went to Mr. Noble's chambers with a pistol in his hand to kill him: that this witness met the deceased upon the stairs, which passage he told to another person.

This person appeared also, and proved the same as it was told him by the other witness; he also proved Noble's wresting the deceased's naked sword from him when he offered to stab him through the back, and that the deceased was cured of the foul disease.

Several witnesses were called to the circumstances of the murder.

The first was a woman servant at the Red-Lyon in George street in the Mint, by the name of Elizabeth Sanders, who swore she was in the backside of her master's house washing, when the two constables came to Twyford's house: that they knocked at the door, and refused to tell their business, or whom, or what they wanted: that she went in with the constables and Mr. Sayer, and nobody else with them: that the deceased came into the house with his sword about three inches out, went up stairs with the two constables, came down by himself, had his sword drawn, swore he would make an end of the prisoner, Mr. Noble, broke open the door, went into the room, and fell down dead, all which she saw, she being in the kitchen below, but did not know how he died.

Men were also called, and swore that Mr. Sayer ran into the house with his sword drawn about four inches swearing he would kill the prisoner Noble, and to the other points agreeing with

with those mentioned in the affidavit, which Mr. James Hannon endeavoured to stubborn Reeves to swear to.

Others were called to invalidate the evidence given of the prisoners swearing to stick the deceased when he met him.

Others deposed, that they were in frequent company with the prisoner Noble and Mrs. Sayer, and never knew any disorderly or unbecoming passages between them, but thought the prisoner Noble came to her only as her attorney.

Several others were called to the reputation and character of the prisoners, particularly a neighbour of Mrs. Sayer in Lisle-street.

The witnesses on both sides being examined, the prisoners at the bar prayed council, and had two assigned them, Mr. W---- and Mr. D----. They insisted that this warrant from a Justice of the Peace, was ill grounded, and made without legal authority; that without legal authority, a multitude came into the said house. That the prisoners had no notice they were constables, and that the deceased broke open the door upon the prisoner; upon which points they moved for a special verdict, intending thereby to have judgment respite. After the arguments of the Council for the Queen, and for the prisoners were over, two witnesses for the Queen examined before, were called up again, and one of them proved, that the man of the house where the prisoners were taken, told them some few days after the murder, that immediately upon the coming in of the constables, he ran through his garden round the house to the back door, and told Mr. Noble the constables were come

come and wanted either him or himself. That he opened the back door to the prisoner Noble, and said to him, Sir, you may go your way if you please. Upon which Twyford's examination taken by John Lade, Esq. Justice of the Peace, was read; Twyford owned his hand subscribed to it, and it agreed with this evidence. The other swore to his hearing Twyford say the same, when he was before the Justice. There were here, and at the Coroner's inquest four witnesses to Twyford's evidence, as John Janeway, of Suffolk place in the Mint, Thomas Austen, Francis Cox and John Wadsworth, all of St. George's parish.

After the witnesses and Council had been heard, it was resolved that the warrant being ill founded was not material, the deceased was killed, and he could justify the action to take up his wife, that it was certain the prisoner knew of the deceased's being there, because he had confessed it already. Upon the whole, the evidence was summed up to the Jury with admirable clearness, impartiality and eloquence; the Court having, during the course of the trial which was very long, from six that morning till one the next, shewed a patience very rare, where so much needless trouble was given. The Jury was permitted some little refreshment at the bar, while the Court was sitting. Then a Bailiff was sworn, and the Jury went out to agree on their verdict, which they brought in on Saturday morning about ten o'clock, that Richard Noble was guilty on all three indictments, and the other two prisoners Mary Sayer and Mary Salisbury Not Guilty.

On Monday when Mr. Noble was brought to the bar to receive sentence, he made a very moving speech to the Court to the following purpose.

My LORD,

I AM soon to appear and render an account of my sins to Almighty God. If your Lordship should think me guilty of those crimes, I have been accused and convicted of by my Jury, I am sure then your Lordship will think that I stand in need of such a preparation, such a humiliation for my great offences, such an abhorrence of my past life, to give me hopes of a future one, that I am not without hopes that it will be a motive to your Lordship's goodness, that after you have judged and sentenced my body to execution, you will charitably assist me with a little time for the preservation of my poor soul.

If I had nothing to answer for but killing Mr. Sayer with precedent malice, I should have no need to address myself to your Lordship in this manner. It is now too late to take any advantage by denying it to your Lordship, and too near my end to dissemble it before God. I know, my Lord, the danger, the hell that I should plunge myself headlong into, I know I shall soon answer for the truth I am now about to say, before a higher tribunal, and a more discerning Judge than your Lordship, which is only in Heaveh; that I did not take the advantage to kill Mr. Sayer, by a thought or apprehension that I could do it under the umbrage of the laws, or with impunity, and nothing was more distant from

my thoughts, than to remove him out of the world to enjoy his wife (as was suggested) without molestation. Nor could any one have greater reluctance or remorse from the time of the fact to the hour of my trial than I have had, though the prosecutors reported to the contrary, for which I heartily forgive them.

My Council obliged me to say on my trial, that I heard Mr. Sayer's voice before he broke open the door, I told them as I now tell your Lordship, that I did not know it was him, till he was breaking in at the door, and then, and not before, was my sword drawn, and the wound given, which wound, as Dr. Garth informed me, was so very slight, that it was a thousand to one that he died of it.

When I gave the wound, I insensibly quitted the sword, by which means I left myself open for him to have done what was proved, and was so likely for him to have effected, viz. to have stabb'd me, which are circumstances that manifest the greatness of my surprize.

When I heard the company run up stairs, I was alarmed, and in fear, the landlord telling me thereupon, that the house was beset, either for me or himself, added to my confusion. I then never thought or intended to do mischief, but first bolted the fore-door, and then bolted and padlockt the back door which was glazed, and began to fasten the shutters belonging to it, designing only to screen myself from the violence of the tumult. When he broke open the door, and not till then, I perceived and knew he was present: and his former threats and attempts, which I so fully proved on my trial, and could have proved much fuller, had not Madam Salisbur^y's

Salisbury's evidence been taken from me, made my fear so great, and the apprehension of my danger so near, that what I did was the natural motion of self-defence, and was too sudden to be the result of precedent malice; and I solemnly declare, that I did not hear or know from Twyford the landlord, or otherwise, that any constable attended the deceased till after the misfortune happened. It was my misfortune, that what I said as to hearing the deceased's voice, was turned to my disadvantage by the Council against me, and that I was not intitled to any assistance of Council to enforce the evidence given for me, or to remark upon the evidence given against me; which I don't doubt would have fully satisfied your lordship and the Jury, that what happened was more my misfortune, than my design or intention.

If I had been able under the concern, to remark upon the evidence against me, that Mr. Sayer was but the tenth part of a minute in breaking open the door, it could not then well be supposed by the Jury, that I was preparing myself, or putting myself in order, to do mischief, which are acts of forethought and consideration, which require much more time than is pretended I could have had from the time I discovered Mr. Sayer; for even from his entry into the house, to the time of the accident, did not amount, as I am informed, to more than the space of three minutes. But I did not discover him before the door gave way.

I wish it had been my good fortune, that the Jury had applied that to me which your Lordship remarked in favour of the ladies, that the latter was so very sudden, so very accidental

and unexpected, that it was impossible to be a contrivance and confederacy, and unlikely that they could come to a resolution in so short a time. I don't remember your Lordship distinguished my case, as to that particular, to be different from theirs, nor was there room for it; for it is impossible for your Lordship to believe, that I dreamt of Mr. Sayer's coming there at that time, but on the contrary I fully proved to your Lordship, that I went there upon another occasion, that was lawful and beneficial for the deceased; and I had no more time to think or contrive, than the ladies had to agree or consent. If any thing could be construed favourable on the behalf of such an unfortunate wretch as myself, I think the design I had sometime before began, and was about finishing that day, might have taken away all suspicion of malice against Mr. Sayer.

Must it be thought, my Lord, that I only am such a sinner that I cannot repent and make reparations to the persons I have injured? It was denied; but I strongly solicited a reconciliation between Mr. Sayer and his lady, and if this had tended to procure me an easier access to Mrs. Sayer, it would have been such a matter of aggravation against me, that it could not have escaped the remark of the Council against me, nor the sharpness of the prosecutors present in Court, with both I transacted, and to both I appealed, particularly to Mr. Nott, to whom but the day before the accident happened, I manifested my desire of having them live together again, and therefore, my Lord it should be presumed, I laboured to be reconciled, and not to revenge myself on Mr. Sayer.

Yours

Your Lordship, I hope, will observe so much in my favour, that it was so far from being a clear fact in the opinion of the Jury, that they sat up all night, and believing there was no malice at that time, told your Lordship they intended, and were inclined to find it manslaughter, and, doubting the legality of the warrant, to find it special.

I hope this will touch your Lordship's heart so far, as not to think me so ill a man as to deserve (what the best of christians are taught to pray against) a sudden death.

I confess I am unprepared; the hopes of my being able to make a legal defence, and my endeavours therein having taken up my time, which I wish I had better employed. I beg leave to assure your Lordship, upon the words of a dying man, that as none of the indirect practices to get or suppress evidence were proved upon me, so they never sprang from me; and I can safely say, that my blood in a great measure will lye at their door that did, because it drew me under an ill imputation of defending myself by subornation of perjury. I would be willing to do my duty towards my neighbour as well as God before I die; I have many papers and concerns (by reason of my profession) of my clients in my hand, and who will suffer if they are not put into some order; and nothing but these two considerations could make life desirable, under this heavy load of irons, and restless remorse of conscience for my sins. A short reprieve for these purposes I hope will be agreeable to your Lordship's humanity and christian virtue, whereupon your Lordship's name shall be blest with my last breath, for giv-

ing me an opportunity of making peace with my conscience, and Almighty God.

As the Court had shewn him all along as much favour as a man in his circumstances could expect, hearing him with indulgence even when it was plain he meant only to give trouble, so was his last request received with the same goodness; and he was given to understand, time should be allowed him for those purposes.

When the goaler came (with a barbarity natural to those fellows) to load Mr. Noble with irons, he was very much confounded; for tho' he had given, as he said, two or three hundred pounds to all the crew that were about him to have some favour, they loaded him with the heaviest irons they had, and curst him as they were putting them on. This was enough to sink his mind, as well as his body; but I am informed he recovered himself afterwards, and did not behave himself with that penitence and resignation which he then gave hopes of. It is also said the prosecutors engaged a Reverend Divine to go to Kingston on purpose to attend him in his soul concerns.

A little while after Mrs. Sayer and Mrs. Salisbury were acquitted, they found bail for their forth coming in twelve months, their bail being Mr. Stephen Hodges, Mr. Joseph Stockar, Mr. Thomas Arne, and Mr. John Hodges, in one thousand pounds apiece, each surety five hundred pounds apiece for each prisoner. Immediately upon their being discharged, the two ladies returned to London, leaving their fellow-prisoner, the dear partner of their pleasures and perils,

perils, bound with harder chains than those of love, his hands manacled, his legs fettered, his friends abandoning him, his Council and Sollicitors crying out that they would not have been concerned for him had they known any thing of the adultery. The women were so overjoyed at their own deliverance, that as they were in the coach returning to London, the turnkey, whom they took along with them to prevent any insult from the rabble, heard them say, "it fell out just as they would have had it." The issue of this unfortunate affair was, that on the 28th of March, 1713, Mr. Noble was executed, and behaved in his last moments with great marks of penitence, and only shewed a little too much concern for being so basely deserted by the women who brought upon him all his misfortunes.

This is a story capable of striking with horror even the minds of such as have not any fixed principles, either of religion or morals; for this story plainly shews, that vice brings its own punishment by a natural chain of circumstances, which, from first to last, leads its miserable victims from one step to another, till they come to that end which befit their proceedings. Now let a man call this what he will, chance, providence, accident, the common course of events, it alters not the case, for effects will still follow their causes, whatever notions we form about them.

If Mr. Noble had behaved as he ought to have done, had slighted the blandishments of a lewd woman, and done justice to his client Mr. Sayer, he must necessarily have preserved both life and reputation; by neglecting this, by doing wrong

wrong instead of right, he came (I will not say necessarily) to lose both.

He was executed at Kingston on the 28th of March, 1713.

The Trial of Joyce HODGKIN, convicted for the Murder of her Husband.

JOYCE HODGKIN, of Stepney, was indicted at the Old Bailey, August the 18th, 1714, for Petty Treason, for the murder of her husband John Hodgkin, by giving him one mortal wound in the left thigh, near the groin, with a knife, of which he instantly died.

A woman, lodging in the same house, deposed, that hearing a noise and scolding between the prisoner and the deceased, she came down, and looking into the room, saw the prisoner run at him with a knife, and immediately saw blood run out of his breeches.

Another deposed, that she lived over the way, and hearing an outcry, ran over to the house, where she heard the man groaning, and saw the blood run violently out of his breeches; and asking the prisoner how it came, she told her that curst knife had done it (shewing a butcher's carving knife) and that he would have stabbed her with it; and that the cursed wretch had been the ruin of her and himself too.

A surgeon was immediately sent for, but before he came the man was dead; and the Surgeon asking how it came, she answered, he did it himself.

The

The prisoner in her defence, said they had had words about keeping his mother, and that he took up the knife, threatening to stab her, and she running away to avoid it, when she turned back again she saw him bleed, and that he did it himself.

The Jury found her guilty of Petty Treason, and sentence of death was passed upon her.

While under condemnation, she would not for some time acknowledge herself guilty of the fact; said she had been married to her husband fifteen years, and all that while he had been a very barbarous and cruel husband to her, beating her most unmercifully: but at last she did own, she did in a passion give him the wound he died of, but did not design to have killed him.

She was burnt at Tyburn the 22d of September 1714.

The Trial and Confession of HENRY PLUNKET, convicted of Murder.

HENRY PLUNKET, of the parish of St. Anne's, Westminster was indicted at the Old Bailey, for the murder of Thomas Brown, by cutting his throat with a razor, August 30, 1714.

The first witness was a servant in the house where the deceased lodged, who deposed, that seeing the prisoner come down stairs in some haste, and having heard a noise above, she asked what was the matter; he said there was a fighting

ing ; but she did not believe it, Mr. Brown being, as she thought, at work by himself : that a-while after, the deceased came down with his hands on his throat, bleeding ; whereupon she cried out, and several people came in, and he was laid upon a bench in the yard.

Another witness deposed, that hearing of the matter, he went in while the deceased was so lying, and he gave him some keys and money out of his pocket, but could not speak ; and that a Surgeon being sent for, came and dressed him, and laid him on a bed, and by farther application brought him to his speech ; and then he described the prisoner, but knew not his name, only said, it was he who came over from Ostend with Mr. Reynard (as it was proved the prisoner did) and that he came behind him, pulled back his head, and cut him twice on the throat.

The prisoner's sword and gloves were found on the bed, in the room where the deceased was murdered ; and he was taken the next day.

He had nothing to say in his defence, but that he had bespoke a wig of the deceased, who asked him seven pounds for it, and afterwards came to six, and he bidding him four for it he fell into a passion, took up a razor that lay by him, and said he would cut his throat first, which he did accordingly ; upon which Plunket ran away, because it is the custom in France, in which country he said he was born, and from which he fled for killing a man, that whoever is in such a place where a man is killed, he shall answer for his blood.

But

But this being looked upon as a very weak defence, he was found guilty of wilful murder, and received sentence of death accordingly.

Being under condemnation, he told the ordinary he was thirty years of age, born at Saar-Lewis, in the Dutchy of Lorain, a place under the dominion of the King of France; that for the most part of his life he had been in the French service, in Italy, Germany, and Flanders; and that when but ten years of age, he had a Lieutenant's commission, under the command of his father, Colonel Plunket, an Irish gentleman, and a relation of Father Plunket, Primate of Ireland (as he called him) who came to an untimely end in the year 1679. And as for himself, he said, that though he was made an officer so young, and therefore came to that post more by favour than merit, yet, as he grew up he shewed himself worthy of it; for by his undaunted courage, he always faced, and never turned his back upon the enemy.

He would not own the fact he was condemned for, said he was a Roman Catholick, and what he confessed, he would do it to his Confessor, who would absolve him.

But at last he owned he was guilty, and justly condemned, but would say no more.

He was executed at Tyburn, September 22, 1714.

The Trial of RICHARD FIELD and his Wife, convicted of Murder and Felony.

RICHARD FIELD, and MARY his wife, were indicted at the Old-Bailey, he for the murder of Mary, wife of Gabriel Randal, and stealing out of the house twenty-five guineas, and twenty-five pounds in money, on the 20th of October last ; and she as an accessory to the felony, by receiving part of the money so stolen.

Mr. Randal swore, that he being a pipe-maker by trade, and the prisoner his journeyman, he went to carry out some pipes, and left only his wife and the prisoner at home ; and returning again in about an hour's time, found the spring of the door-latch cut ; so that he was some time before he could get in ; which when he had done, going up stairs, he found his wife lying across the bed, with her hands and legs tied ; whereupon he cried out, and some neighbours came in, who found a clout thrust down her throat, and another tied round her head before her mouth ; which when they had removed, blood issued out, and they discovered her to be murdered. That he went and looked about the house, and found his chest broke open, and the money taken away, and a hammer lying by, which he left in the work-shop with the prisoner when he went out, and also found the prisoner's apron bloody, but he was gone.

Another evidence depos'd, that Mr. Randal sending him an account of what had pass'd, he made

made strict search after the prisoner, whom he found at last on board a ship bound for Virginia ; and upon searching him found some money, which he owned to be part of the prosecutor's, and also a purse, which the deceased frequently carried in her pocket. When he was apprehended he denied his name, and said it was John Gardiner ; but upon his trial owned he stood at the door while John Gardiner robbed the house, but did not know he had committed murder.

This being all he had to say in his defence, the Jury found him guilty of murder and felony, but acquitted his wife of being accessory to the last, by reason of her coverture.

After sentence, he gave the ordinary the account following : That he was about twenty-seven years of age, born at Coney-hatch, in the county of Middlesex, where he first went to school, in the towns thereabouts ; and that a good and pious gentleman taking care of his education, and paying the charge of it, he was well and virtuously brought up, but did not answer the expectations of his friends ; that when he was about twelve years of age, he went to new England, and there was bound apprentice to one Michael Harding, a tobacco-pipe maker at Boston ; and having served an apprenticeship worked 3 years as a journeyman with his master ; who being a sober and pious man, and keeping his house in good order, he himself could not but outwardly appear religious, and careful to discharge Christian duties, though indeed, at the same time he had a very wicked heart, and would often wrong his good master secretly, stealing money and other things from

him, and that, about five years ago, returning into England, he wrought for a while at his craft of pipe-making, by which he got five or six shillings a week, and no more. And being persuaded by his friends to follow some other employment, he tried to learn some parts of watch-making, as punching gilding, &c. but as he could not attain to any proficiency therein, he was rather a loser than a gainer by it: so that growing poor, and desiring to get money at any rate, and by any means, he fell again not only to work at his old trade of pipe-making, but also of pilfering and stealing where he could; and proceeded at last to the commission of the two horrid crimes for which he was condemned to die, which he said, the devil prompted him to, he did not know how; but being in a hurry, and afraid of a discovery, he stopt Mrs. Randal's mouth with a cloth, and thrust it down her throat, not thinking it would, as it was, be her death. He affirmed that he contrived and did it himself, and no other person had a hand in assisting him.

He expressed much sorrow for his sins, and earnestly implored God's and his master's pardon.

He was executed Sept. 22, 1714.

*The Trial and Confession of JOHN PANTON
CARBONEL, JOSEPH BARBAMINO, and
JOHN BORDE, convicted of Felony.*

JOHN PANTON CARBONEL, and JOSEPH BARBAMINO, were indicted at the Old Bailey, April 27, 1715, for stealing two guineas, and two shillings in silver, in the dwelling house of Mary Meakins.

It appeared that Mrs. Meakins kept the Star Tavern in Colcman-street, and the prisoners came and drank two pints of wine there, and asked for change for a guinea, which the drawer going to get for them, they followed him into the room behind the bar; and when Mrs. Meakins turned her money out of her bag to change, they put their hands in, pretending to look for half guineas, and she did give them six half guineas for three guineas, and they went their way: but when she told her money over, she missed that mentioned in the indictment, and was positive there could be no other person who took it, but the prisoners, who being afterwards taken for the like fact, were brought to the Sun Tavern in order to go before Sir William Withers, where the drawer knew them, and swore positively they were the persons, two of whom went into the room behind the bar, and the other stood in the bar while they did the busines.

They had nothing to say in their defence, but that they paid their reckoning, were bid welcome and went away unsuspected.

They were found guilty of the indictment.

They were a second time indicted for stealing two moidores, a double pistole, two half broad pieces, and eighteen pence in silver, the property of John Tomkins, out of the house of Stephen Forster, in Cateaton street, on the 21st of March, 1714-15.

The evidence deposed, that the prisoners came pretending to buy some cloth at Mr. Forster's warehouse, and bargained for some, which they were to come for in the afternoon; but as they were going away, one of them pulled out a five pound piece of gold out of his pocket, and asked the witness what it was; who turning some gold out of a bag, to weigh it against five guineas, one of the prisoners thrust his hand among the money pretending to seek for his five pound piece, while the other two had their hands busy about it.

The witness being a little surprized at the action, bid them keep their hands off from the money, and returned their piece of gold, and they went away; after which telling his money, he found that mentioned in the indictment wanting, which he positively swore they took away, for that no other person could come at the bags. The prisoners denied they ever were at the prosector's house: however, they were found guilty.

John Panton Carbonel, and J. Borde were a third time indicted for stealing twelve moidores, the property of Samuel Cook, out of the dwelling house of Mr. Shales, the 26th of February, 1711.

The evidence deposed, that the prisoners came into Mr. Shales's shop, and asked to change a five pound piece, which he turning out a bag upon the counter to do, they thrust their hands

hands into the money, pretending to look for half guineas ; and when they were gone he missed the moidores, and was positive none could take them but they.

The prisoners denied they were the persons ; but the witness being positive, they were found guilty.

They were a fourth time indicted for stealing twenty shillings and a handkerchief, from Thomas Lawford, the 30th of April, 1711.

He deposed, that they came into his shop in Cheapside, and bought three neckcloths, and then asked him to change a five pound piece, which he pulling out his bag to do, they pretended they wanted to look for half-guineas ; and when he came to tell his money, after they were gone, he missed that mentioned in the indictment ; and that some days after, meeting Carbonel in the street, he knew him, and apprehended him with the other two, whereby the rest of the prosecutors had notice. The fact being plain, they were found guilty.

Carbonel was indicted a fifth time, for stealing two moidores, a guinea, and a French guinea, out of the dwelling house of Nath. Newnham, on the 4th of November, 1714.

It appeared by the evidence, that the prisoner came to ask change for a pistole, and afterwards for a five pound piece, which he going into the back shop to do, the prisoner followed him, and got his hand among the money, which he put out of a bag, and afterwards missed that mentioned in the indictment. Upon this he was likewise found guilty, and then all three received sentence of death.

When

When under condemnation they gave the Ordinary the account following: John Panton Carbonel said, he was fifty two years of age, born at Nismes in Languedoc in France, but of late years had lived at Rotterdam, where he kept a shop, and carried on a trade, and lately came to England to sell hair, he dealing in that commodity: But said, he had concealed his right name, because he would not have it publickly known who he was, to the disgrace of his family, part of which were here, part in Holland, and all of them good, honest, and laborious people.

He confessed he was guilty of all the facts charged upon him, and had committed several others of the like nature, which he could not make any other reparation for, than by submitting, as he did patiently to that shameful death he was condemned to, and did justly deserve.

Joseph Barbamino, convicted of the same crimes, said he was sixty-three years of age, born at Messina in Sicily; that he had been nine years a soldier in France, and came to live at Amsterdam, where he kept a Milliner's shop, and there it was he became acquainted with Carbonel; that they had not been long in England before they committed those facts, which he said he heartily repented of.

J. Borde, convicted of the same crimes, said, he was sixty years of age, born in the city of Nismes, in the neighbourhood of Carbonel; that he had been many years out of his country, had served in the army, but of late lived in London, where his employment was, buying and selling goods of any sort. They were all executed at Tyburn the 11th of May, 1715.

The

*The Trial of NATHANIEL PARKHURST,
Esq. for the Murder of Lewis Pleura,
and his Behaviour while under Sentence.*

NATHONIEL PARKHURST, Esquire, of the Parish of St. Bride's, was indicted for the Murder of Lewis Pleura, on the third of March, 1715, by giving him a mortal wound with a rapier, on the left side of the navel, of the breadth of one inch, and the depth of five inches.

He was also indicted a second time on the statute of stabbing.

It appeared by the evidence, that the prisoner and the deceased, were prisoners in the Fleet; that the prisoner having been up all night, about three in the morning, went into a room next to that of the deceased's, and cried, "d----n you, "Sir Lewis, where are you?" but being informed he was mistaken, he went away, broke into the deceased's room, and was heard to say, "d----n you, Sir Lewis, pay me the four guineas you owe me." Soon after which, the deceased cried out murder, and the watchman with others going into the room, found the deceased lying naked and bleeding on the floor on his back, and the prisoner upon him with his sword drawn. Being taken up, the deceased was put to bed, the sheets (which were very bloody) being first taken off, where a surgeon dressed his wounds, which were eighteen or twenty in number, two of them mortal. After which being able to speak, he was asked, how he

he was wounded ; he answered, the prisoner had done it in his bed.

One witness swore, that after the prisoner was disarmed, and taken out of the room, he came in again, and said, “ d----n you, Pleura, “ are you not dead yet ?”

The fact was very plainly proved, nor did he deny it on his trial, otherwise than by saying, he knew nothing of it, and that he had been an imperfect man as to his senses, for two years and a half past ; which several witnesses were called to prove, and swore to a great many lunatic and whimsical things he had been guilty of within that space of time.

But others deposed, that he was in a capacity of distinguishing what he did, having lately transacted some business in relation to his liberty, in which he appeared to be in his right senses. It seems he had been drinking in company from four in the afternoon, till the time he committed the fact.

The Jury found him guilty of wilful murder, and on the statute of stabbing ; and he received sentence of death accordingly.

While he lay under condemnation, he desired little company besides that of the Ordinary, and in his retirement, much exercised himself in acts of devotion ; for the furtherance of which he had divers books of prayer, which he constantly made use of ; among the rest was a book entitled, *The Christian Monitor*, which he said, he wished he had read before ; for if he had, he might have prevented many sins, done many good deeds, and never have came to this shameful and untimely end.

Being

Being visited by the Ordinary, he found him at several times, in several different dispositions, sometimes very calm and easy, willing to hear of his faults, and to receive good advice with patience, and submit to his sentence with resignation ; and at other times very much disturbed in his spirits, expressing a great deal of anger and uneasiness, reflecting much on his relations, supposing they might, if they would, have saved his life ; and being in this sad perplexity and fretting humour, said, he had a thousand thoughts at once flowing into his mind.

He gave this account of himself : that he was thirty-nine years of age, born at Catesby, near Daventry, in Northamptonshire, came of a good and honourable family, and had his education in Wadham College in Oxford, and elsewhere, suitable to his birth, but did not make a right use of it ; for falling into bad company, and being too conversant with men of erroneous and dangerous principles, who ridiculed all religions, denying the immortality of the soul, and even our Lord Jesus Christ, and looking upon his gospel, and indeed the whole book of scriptures, as an idle romance, he was thereby soon seduced to all manner of debauchery and sensuality ; and by these vicious and irregular ways of living, so displeasing to God, so scandalous to the Christian Religion, which he outwardly professed ; and so hurtful to the world in general, and to his own soul in particular, he wasted his substance, dulled his spirits, weakened his faculties, and at last brought himself into such a melancholy state and discomposure of mind, that a little before he committed the murder, he was resolved to kill somebody or other, and make his escape out of

the

the Fleet, where he was a prisoner for debt ; or if he could not effect that, to lay violent hands upon himself, as being weary of his life.

But after his condemnation, being come to a more sober temper, and a sense of his miserable condition, he owned his sins were very great and heinous, and particularly in murdering a person that gave him no provocation ; saying, that he heartily repented, and prayed God to forgive him, for Christ's sake ; in removing the guilt from his soul which he had thereby contracted, and in giving him grace that in this world he might make a good end, and in the next enjoy that felicity which is to have no end.

He would often say, that he was very willing and ready to die, and that if life or death were put to his choice, he would chuse to embrace the latter ; for he could have no prospect that the miseries he had undergone for twenty years past, would have an end but with his life ; and therefore (saving the shame of his untimely death) it rejoiced his heart to see himself so near his dissolution ; adding, that though he had not nor could ever have a clear idea of the state to come ; yet, as he heartily repented of all his sins (and that in particular for which he was to die) and resigned himself to God's will and pleasure, so he hoped to receive pardon and salvation through Christ's merits.

The morning before his execution, he ordered a fowl to be got ready for his breakfast, which he eat up with a very good appetite, and drank with it a pint of drink ; and this being done, he went to the place of execution in a very composed frame.

When

When he came there, he made no other speech to the spectators but this, “ That the small pox, which he had twenty years before, had left such an infirmity in his head, that he never was perfectly well ; ” he desired the prayers of all the standers-by for his departing soul ; and then applied himself to private prayer, after the performance of the service usual on such occasions.

He was executed at Tyburn, the 20th of May,
1715.

The Trial of JOHN BIGG, for altering Bank Notes.

JOHN BIGG, of St. Mildred in the Poultry, was indicted at the Old Bailey, June 2, 1715, upon two indictments, the one for erasing, the other for altering an indorsement upon a bank bill, on the first of March preceding.

The evidence deposed, that a bill of a hundred pound payable to Mr. John White, or bearer, was drawn and signed by Mr. Joseph Adam, for the governor and Bank of England, on the 19th of February 1715, and that the twenty-second of the said month, ninety pound was paid, and indorsed on the said bill in such manner as is usual ; and that on the first of March following, the same bill was brought to the Bank again, with the indorsement taken off, and twenty-five pounds paid more, and indorsed as the former ; that the officers of the bank, finding some bills over-paid (among which was that

that mentioned in the indictment) were at a loss to find out by what means, till one Collins made the following discovery: that the prisoner told him, if he had not too scrupulous a conscience, he could put him in a way to get vast sums of money; which he seeming to hearken to, the prisoner told him what it was to do, and shewed him, that by applying a certain liquor to the red ink, the letters disappeared.

Collins having by this means got sufficiently into the secret, acquainted the governors of the bank with it; whereupon a warrant was taken out, and the prisoner's house searched, where the very bill mentioned in the indictment, and others, were found, and also an account in writing of several bills, their numbers, and sums received on them.

Another witness was one Mars, who deposed, that the prisoner proposed to him, that he might get 10,000l. if he would be concerned; and that he did engage in it, saw the prisoner make the experiment, and received money at the bank for him, for which he was to have a third part of the profit.

The prisoner did not deny the fact; but having Council allowed him, they argued, that Mr. Adam was not a servant qualified to make out those bills, unless authorised by the Corporation-Seal: that writing with red ink on the inside of the bill cannot be called an indorsement; nor, if that were an indorsement, can the fact be called, erasing or altering.

To this the King's Council answered, and the prisoner's replied: whereupon the Court observed, that Mr. Adam was a servant qualified to make out those bills for the Governor and the

Company of the Bank of England: but the other two articles were referred to a special verdict.

The Judges on this occasion, being assembled at Serjeant's-inn Hall, in Fleet-street, were attended by Council on both sides, where the point of law was solemnly argued; and after consideration thereof, the Judges were of opinion that the prisoner was guilty of felony within the meaning of the statute; and accordingly he was brought to the bar, and received sentence of death, December, 1716, but afterwards obtained a reprieve, and pleaded to his pardon.

The Trial of THOMAS COTTON, and CHARLES WARREN, for a Riot.

THOMAS COTTON, and CHARLES WARREN, were indicted, for that they, with several others, did assault, in a riotous and tumultuous manner, Joseph Bell, and several others, on the 28th of May last, about eleven o'clock at night.

The Council for the King opened the charge, and supported it with the following evidence.

The first swore, that on the night aforesaid, he was at the Fountain Tavern in Stocks Market; that a bonfire being at the door, he, with some more gentlemen, went down to it, to drink King George's health; that a mob came down, and abused several that drank it, crying out, Ormond, High Church, &c.

Another evidence deposed the same, and named some particular injuries, viz. one gentleman had his jaw-bone broke, another his arm, and another received a very desperate wound in his head, with a great many other insufferable affronts and abuscs, which he thought too odious to mention ; but that Mr. Bell's hand had received a great contusion, and was very bloody.

Another evidence deposed, he heard the same cry ; that they hissed the King's health, threw firebrands into the house, and almost murdered several who were about the bonfire.

One Mr. Bucknall deposed, he took Charles Warren out of the mob with a stick, after the lanthorn which hung over the tavern door, was broke to pieces.

Mr. Rogers the constable, also swore, that being at the bonfire to keep peace and order, a man said to him, have a care of yourselves, for there are some here will be about your house by and by : upon which he went home to put on his cap and gown ; which he had scarce done, but down came the mob, and the first man he laid his hand on, that was among them, was Cotton, who had a pole in his hand a foot longer than his own staff, and made rough and shagged at the end, fit for desperate attempts, hallooing, and crying out High Church ; and having secured him, he made what haste he could to the Royal Exchange to desire the commanding Officer to assist him with a detachment of the Train-bands.

Mr. Atkins swore, that being at the place aforesaid, and drinking King George's health, a man that stood by him hissed at it aloud, and drinking

drinking it again, he spit in his face, and said, "D----n you, drink the King's, the King's;" he replied, "so I do; pray what do you mean?" Mean (said he) I mean Jemmy; and immediately retired to the mob.

Warren brought some to his reputation, who said he was a civil lad, and that Stocks-market was his way home from the place he was sent to.

Cotton also brought the master he served his time with, who spoke well of him; but as they could say nothing to the behaviour they were charged with in this riot, the Jury found them both guilty, and the Cour fined Thomas Cotton twenty Marks, and Charles Warren, fifteen.

The Trial of HENRY HOWARD, for a Highway Robbery; with his own Account of himself.

HENRY HOWARD, otherwise Powell, of South Mimms, was indicted for an assault on the person of Sarah Maddocks, and taking from her two shillings and six-pence, the 25th of October 1715.

The prosecutrix deposed, that between Barnet and Kicks-end, the prisoner met her sister, and said to her, "how do you do? give me your "money," She said, she had none; the prisoner replied, "D----n you, I will have money, or "else I will shoot you. Upon which she offered him some farthings, which he dashed out

of

of her hand, and, said, “ D----n you, I want
“ gold and silver, and gold and silver I will
“ have ;” and then came to her (this witness)
and said, “ D---n you, must I wait here all
“ night ? give me your money.” She told him
she had but half a crown : “ Give it me
“ quickly,” said he ; and put his hand into her
pocket, and took the money.

They afterwards described the prisoner to some
persons, who pursued and took him.

The prisoner denied the fact ; but the evidence
being positive, the Jury found him guilty, and
he received sentence of death.

Before his execution, he gave the Ordinary
the paper following.

I Henry Howard, otherwise Powell, which
last is my right name, was condemned for a rob-
bery on the highway, on Barnet-common, on
the Body of Sarah Maddocks, and taking from
her two shillings and six-pence in money. I was
born the 5th of August, 1691, in the liberty of
the city of London, of very honest and reputa-
ble parents, whose care and industry in my edu-
cation was sufficient to qualify me for any busi-
ness whatsoever, and, with the grace of God,
to prevent this ignominious death.

At nine years of age I was put to Merchant
Taylors School, under Mr. Pickering, and in
two years time was removed under Mr. Parfels,
from whence (in a short time) I was removed
to the care of the learned Mr. Shorter, and at-
tained at twelve years of age to such a know-
ledge of the Greek and Latin tongues, as none
could exceed me. Being about that time taken
from Latin, I was put to writing and arithme-
tic, in which I improved myself very much ;
and

and being qualified for any trade whatsoever, none (to my misfortune) was approved of but a Surgeon, and accordingly was bound at Surgeon's Hall to a very eminent and ingenious man, who professed both Pharmacy and Surgery ; and (though I speak it to my shame) one who by his exemplary piety and virtue, might have ingrafted good principles into the heart of any one less obdurate than mine, and how many thousand times have I repented within myself, for slighting his wholesome admonitions ; and once I remember, in a prophetic way, I believe, he told me this untimely death was my predestinated fortune, unless I reformed. But father and mother dying in a little time after I was bound, exposed me to several wants, that I protest, the remainder of my apprenticeship, while my master lived, was tedious to me : but however, it pleased God to take my master to himself before I had served six years ; and my mistress leaving off the business, I was exposed to all the inconveniencies and frowns of fortune, and, as it were, destitute, being then but eighteen years of age ; but however, Almighty God was so gracious to me, as to prevent my falling into bad company, though reduced to want : but going one day to visit a kinswoman of mine, she fancying a ring which I had, was willing to exchange it for hers ; but afterwards it not proving according to her expectations, contrived, and took me out of my bed ; and I not being permitted to beg pardon, or make any apology for myself, was sent into Flanders for a foot-soldier, which was undoubtedly the ruin of me, for not having frequented vicious company before, I fulfilled the saying of St. Paul, " Evil

“ communication corrupts good manners.” I continued in that station almost three years, tho’ I made two attempts to regain my native country again, but was retaken, and narrowly escaped a severe punishment; and considering the mercy and providence of God in my deliverance, I was resolved to content myself in the circumstances I was in, and got acquainted with several of the Clergy, who took great delight in my conversation, having the Latin tongue as fluent as my native; and though no means was neglected for my conversion to their faith, Almighty God opened the eyes of my understanding, to discover their insinuations, confute their arguments, and constrain their superstitious idolatry; their purgatory, invocation of Saints, and the doctrine of transubstantiation, were the main obstacles of my conversion. Would time permit me, I would expound the arguments they made use of to prove the verity of them, but it being the day before my death, and having a great task to perform, and but a little time to perform it in, I hope you will excuse me; and therefore I will proceed to give you an account of my escape from thence.

Although I narrowly escaped twice before, yet beginning to grow uneasy again, I was resolved to have the other trial, and accordingly on June the 7th, 1712, with seven more, I made my way to Holland, from whence, in a short time, by the assistance of an honest master, bound for Burlington in Yorkshire, I regained my native country, and in nine days after my desertion from Newport, I came to fair Augusta, Albion’s metropolis.

Finding

Finding every thing turned upside down, and not a friend left that would serve me, I began to reflect, and repent within myself for leaving my military function, being reduced to that want, that I must either beg or steal; the former I despised as despicable, the latter I dreaded as destructive to my soul and body; and therefore I applied myself to a servile employment by the water-side; and I wish to God I had continued in that station: but getting acquainted with an idle fellow, I was seduced to the commission of the fact for which he died; and God Almighty, who knew the innocence of my heart at that time, was merciful to me, that (by his fatal example) I might reform my life and conversation, which God Almighty to promote, sent me a loving, tender, and endearing wife as ever man enjoyed; who endeavoured (by her actions and behaviour) to convince me, that the wicked course I took, would be my inevitable ruin; and to do her justice, as I am a dying man, had I been ruled by her, I had never came to this untimely end: and there is no transitory pleasure that with regret I leave, but her dear company: my heart melts within me at the thoughts of her, and if ever love was reciprocally joined, it was between us; and therefore I humbly beg of every body that they would cast no reflections upon her; and to vindicate her from any confederacy with me, I kept her ignorant of my way of living for a long time, till my coming into trouble acquainted her with it. And although I think a confession to Almighty God is a sufficient acknowledgment in this world, I am obliged (for vindication of her) to acquaint Mr. Fletcher, that his waggon was robbed by myself

self and Thomas Edwards, at Seven-oaks in the county of Kent; and I never sold any but to Mr. Keys, except one dozen of handkerchiefs to another person, whose name I omit, though he does not deserve it at my hands. And as for other matters, as it is not in my power to retaliate those persons I have wronged, I think it needless to bring other men into trouble, who have been either confederates or receivers: but this caution I will give to all country waggoners, to take particular care of their waggons in the Inn-yards at night. As to the fact I die for, I acknowledge it just; but being in liquor, was seduced by that villain Edwards, or I had prevented this misfortune.

I account this ignominious death as a just judgement for my sins against the divine majesty, and my neighbours; and therefore patiently resign myself to his blessed will, and hope (with true repentance, and a stedfast faith in Christ Jesus) he will seal my pardon in Heaven before I go hence, and be no more seen; and I bless God, I have had more consolation under my condemnation, than ever I had this many years; and I hope that those who survive me, will take warning by my fatal end.

I have this comfort, that no man can accuse me of enticing them to the commission of such facts; especially one person who hath accused me of it since my condemnation: but for the value I have for him, I will omit his name, and desire him to take warning by me; being resolved within myself, that if God had prolonged my days, I would relinquish all such courses. This is a true account of my life past, December 22, 1715. Witness my hand

HEN. POWELL.

The Trial and Conviction of JAMES GOODMAN, for Horse-stealing; with his resolute and desperate Behaviour.

JAMES GOODMAN, otherwise FOOTMAN, of Stepney, was indicted at the Old Bailey, January 13, 1715-16, together with one John Stephens, for stealing a bay Gelding, value eight pound, the property of Philip White, on the 17th of December preceding.

Mr. White deposed, that on the 9th of October, between Stratford and Ilford, he was met by three highwaymen on horseback, one of them he believed was the prisoner, who took from him his horse, spurs, and 1s in money. After this, on the 17th of December, he met the prisoner upon his horse at Bow, in Middlesex, and Stephens with him. Upon which he sent his servant to the prisoner to demand his horse, which he doing, they clapt spurs to their horses, and rode away: but they pursued him, and Goodman flashed a pistol at Mr. White, but it did not go off; and then they quitted their horses, not being able to leap the ditch, and took to a field; whereupon he gave his servant a small gun, and ordered him to pursue them. The prisoner fired twice at his servant, but missed him, he keeping a little out of the way, being cautious of firing at the highwaymen. Upon this, one of them said, “ D----n it, we'll kill or “ be killed; we won't be taken a live; let's “ turn upon them and fire, our lives are as good “ as theirs.” Upon this his servant discharged his gun, which was loaded with pebble stones, and

and hit the prisoner behind the head, who immediately fell down, and was taken.

Another person, named White, coming by, leaped the ditch, and pursued with his hanger drawn: Stephens, seeing himself hard put to it, presented two pistols at him, who thereupon bid him fire; but told him, if he missed, he would cleave his skull: whereupon, seeing his companion already taken, he dropt his pistols, and surrendered. They had two musketoons, and a screw-pistol of a very particular make, a very unfair one, being loaded with three bullets, and the other with two each.

The prisoner, upon his trial, said, the horse was lent him; and, to prove it, called two persons, one of whom swore, four men came in November last to his inn, where they put up their horses; and the horse claimed by the prosecutor, was lame by a cut on the knee, and one Smith came to him, and desired a farrier might be sent for to cure him, and then they all went away, and left him for that purpose; and being cured, Smith's brother came and paid for it, and had an order to deliver the same to the prisoner. This was confirmed by the farrier, who received the money for his cure. But the Court believing his witnesses were his accomplices, found him guilty of the indictment.

This desperado being convicted, was put in the Bail-dock, that being thought the safest place, since the murder of Mr. Spurling in the Hold; but about seven o'clock on Saturday night before he received sentence, by the assistance of some other criminals in the same place, he threw himself over the spikes into the further passage, though with his fetters on, and made his

his escape. But about a month after, coming to an alehouse in Holbourn, in order to treat with a lawyer, to commence a suit against a carrier (to whom, before his conviction, he had given some money to carry down to a woman he called his wife, in the country ; which he, hearing he was condemned, did not deliver, but probably thought to convert it to his own use) some persons happening to know him, immediately gave notice to the keepers of Newgate, who went and apprehended him, though he made a very resolute and desperate resistance ; and the next sessions, being called down to his former judgment, sentence of death was passed on him, and he was executed.

He gave the Ordinary this account of himself: That he was thirty-two years of age, born at Little Harwood, in Buckinghamshire, of honest and religious parents, who gave him a virtuous education ; that he was put apprentice to a Carpenter in Ailesbury, with whom he served seven years ; and, not long after his time was out, he, with two more young men, went out one day in a frolick to hunt a deer, saying, they would have a venison pasty, and be merry ; but one of them made himself an evidence against him and the other : they were apprehended, and not being able to pay 30l a-piece, the usual fine in such cases, they were both committed to Ailesbury goal for a year and a day ; during which time he worked at his trade, and when he came out, married about two years after, being in good business and reputation for about nine years. But at last, falling into bad company, he neglected his lawful employment, became very loose, and so brought his wife and children

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children to ruin. He owned the fact, and that for ten months he had been engaged in that course of life; and had committed many robberies, though not very considerable; but begged pardon of God, and those he had wronged.

He was executed at Tyburn the 12th of March 1715-16.

The impudent Behaviour, and prevaricating Confession of Parson PAUL, convicted of High Treason.

WILLIAM PAUL was the son of John Paul, of Little Ashby, near Lutterworth, in the county of Leicester, commenced Bachelor of arts in St. John's College in Cambridge in 1702, was Curate of Carlton Curlien, near Harborough, in Leicestershire; and at the same time Chaplain to Sir Geoffry Palmer; from thence he went to Tamworth in Staffordshire, and was Curate and Usher to the Free School there. He went from thence to Nun Eaton in Warwickshire, and was Curate to Mr. Foxcroft; from thence he removed, being presented to the Vicarage of Orton on the Hill, Leicestershire, by the then bishop of Oxford. He was instituted into this Vicarage by the Archbishop of Canterbury, May 5, 1709; to qualify himself for which, he took the usual oaths to Queen Anne, and abjured the Pretender.

He went down with Gascoign, and some others he would not name, to meet the Rebels at

at Preston, was seized on the way by one Major Bradshaw, and Mr. Matthews a Clergyman, and set at liberty again by one Col. Noel, a Justice of the Peace in that country; but went afterwards to Preston, read prayers to the rebels three days together, and prayed for the Pretender, in the parish church, by the name of King James. But just before King George's troops invested the town, he made the best of his way out; and just calling in his own country, by the way, he came to London; and being disguised in coloured cloaths, laced hat, long wig, and a sword by his side, he was accidentally met near Montague-house, by Thomas Bird, Esq. Justice of the Peace for the county of Leicester, who knew him, and took him prisoner, December 12, 1715, and he was carried to the Duke of Devonshire's, then before the Secretary of State, who, after a short examination, without any confession, first committed him to the custody of a Messenger, and about fourteen days after, sent him to Newgate; and on the 31st of May he was arraigned at Westminster, and pleaded Not Nuilty to his indictment; and being returned to Newgate, he sent the following letter to a friend :

GOOD SIR,

“ IF time will permit, I desire your company
“ for one minute, upon the receipt of this:
“ and you will for ever oblige,

Yours,

W. P.

VOL. I.

C c.

Upon

Upon his friend's coming to Newgate, Mr. Paul said, " What must I do ? I am this day arraigned, and pleaded Not Guilty ; but that is little to the purpose ; " and then continued, with tears in his eyes, " there is too much will be proved against me." To which his friend replied, " If this be true, and you are already condemned in your own conscience, to what purpose do you stand your trial ? you have sufficiently provoked the government already, and will exasperate it more, by denying that, which, by your own confession, will be proved against you. But, however, do as you please, I will persuade you to nothing : but in my opinion, the best way is to confess your fault, ask pardon, and throw yourself upon the King's mercy." Upon which he said, his Council advised him the same, and he was fully resolved to follow their advice, being very unwilling to be hanged, if he could possibly avoid it.

And accordingly the two following petitions were drawn up, and heartily approved by him, which he resolved to present.

To the Right Hon. Sir Peter King, Lord Chief Justice, &c. The humble Petition of William Paul, Clerk,

Sheweth,

THAT your petitioner, through the grace of God, having a deeper insight into, and a more lively sense of the crimes, and offences by him committed, doth now at last detest and abhor (from the bottom of his soul) the late unnatural rebellion, begs pardon of God, King George,

George, and his native country, against all he has highly offended, sincerely repents, declares his unfeigned and hearty sorrow, in having been instrumental towards encouraging and promoting the same. He owns himself to be highly culpable in pleading not guilty at his arraignment ; prays leave to retract that plea ; acknowledges the indictment preferred against him to be just and true ; implores and hopes your Lordship, from your innate goodness and Christian charity, will be pleased to recommend him to his most sacred Majesty, as a sincere penitent, and, though unworthy, an object of mercy, which, as in duty bound, your petitioner shall ever pray, &c.

To his most Sacred Majesty, George, by the Grace of God, King of Great Britain, France, and Ireland, &c. The humble Petition of William Paul, Clerk,

Sheweth,

THAT your petitioner, now a prisoner in Newgate, for the late unnatural rebellion against your Majesty, the Church and nation ; by all which he owns to have highly offended ; and therefore in all submission prostrates himself at your sacred feet, begs for mercy, promises and vows all loyalty and obedience to his Majesty's person and government for time to come ; and that no seditious humour shall stir or move him from his duty ; and therefore humbly hopes his Majesty's piety and goodness will pardon past offences, and crimes by him committed, and accept his sincere and hearty repentance.

And

And from the true affection of his heart (as in duty bound) shall be poured out daily and devout prayers to the God of Heaven, for you Majesty's long life, happy reign, prosperous estate, and royal posterity, in this world, and for ever and ever.

He also wrote several letters and petitions, some of which are these that follow :

His Letter to the Archbishop of Canterbury.

May it please your Grace,

AT my trial I thought I had a very good plea, but was advised by the Lawyers, as the surest way to obtain mercy, to plead Guilty, upon which I threw myself wholly upon the King's mercy. What confession the Court would have from me I cannot tell; I am sure your Grace would not have me, for the world, speak more than I know. I declare before Almighty God, upon the word of a Clergyman, I never brought any letter out of Preston, or went to any one gentleman, or spoke the least thing that tended that way; viz. to rebellion, but came into my own country as fast as I could, and then to London, where I was seized and sent to Newgate.

I humbly desire your Grace once more to believe me, and to use your utmost endeavours to save a poor Clergyman's life. If it will not be granted to spend the remainder of it in England, I beg you would be pleased to send me to the plantations, or any where rather than Tyburn. I humbly desire your Grace

to

to consider a poor afflicted servant, and take him from this nasty prison.

I am,

My LORD,

Your LORDSHIP's

Most Humble,

and most Obedient Servant,

WILLIAM PAUL.

My Lord, I never did, since I was in Newgate, pray for the Pretender by any name or title.

Another to the same.

My LORD,

I B E G pardon for troubling your Grace, but presuming upon your goodness, once again humbly to desire you to intercede with his Royal Highness for mercy: the dead warrant is come down for execution on Friday next. What ill steps I have made in life past, I hope Almighty God will forgive me; but the things that are laid to my charge, viz. preaching up rebellion, advising my parishioners to take up arms, and that I preached several seditious sermons; all which are false upon the word of a Clergyman; as I have a certificate to prove for six years the time of being at Orton, handed by most of the parish: another thing is objected against, me that I was concerned in several confu-

tations, but I am innocent and ignorant, I call God to witness, of any design that was formed in any part of the kingdom against the government; and if ever I knew of any meeting, but where I was unfortunately at Preston, or consultation, or ever asked or advised any person to rise in rebellion, let me suffer.

I desire your Grace will endeavour to save me this time from that ignominious death, the halter, and dispose of me in what part your Lordship pleaseth.

If nothing can be done, I humbly desire your Lordship's blessing and prayers for patience and courage in this severe time of trial.

For God's sake, my Lord, do what lies in your power to save the life of a poor afflicted Clergyman; the remaining part of which shall be spent in prayers for your Grace, and all that endeavoured to bring me out of these great troubles.

I am,

My LORD,

Your LORDSHIP'S.

Most Humble,

and most Obedient Servant,

*Newgate,
July 9*

W. PAUL.

The

The following Letter was written by Mr. Paul, to Lord Townshend, the Night before his Execution.

My LORD,

Mr. Patten was so kind as to make me a visit in my affliction, and desired me if I knew any thing relating to the government to declare it. My Lord, I solemnly declare, I call God to witness, I carried no letter from Preston, though I told Mr. Patten so, which was only a feint, that I might go off: and if Mr. Patten will do me justice, he can tell your Lordship how uneasy I was, when I discovered my rashness. My Lord, I depend solely upon your Lordship's goodness, in this my miserable condition. I wish, my Lord, I could have my life saved, that I might shew to the world how heartily I am sorry for all my past errors, and no man shall demonstrate it more than,

My LORD,

Your LORDSHIP'S

Most Humble,

and most Obedient Servant,

WILLIAM PAUL.

My Lord, Mr. Patten saith, it is an aggravation to my crime, that I prayed in express terms, in Newgate for the Pretender, by the name of King James; I declare I never did. I once more

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more crave your Lordship's kind assistance to
procure me my life.

A Letter from Mr. Paul to his Kinswoman.

My Dear Nanny, Newgate, July 8, 1716.

WHAT I all along feared is come upon me, and that habit, which, after my commitment, I was in hopes would have been my protection, from a public execution, has, I am apt to think, rather hastened, than put it backward; since I am among the number of those who are to suffer next Friday, in the dead warrant, and have little hopes of a reprieve, is extremely afflicting to me. I must beg you to come to me at the receipt of this, that we may concert measures together, if it be possible, for my preservation; for I cannot think of dying the death of a dog, by the hands of a merciless executioner, with any manner of patience. Transportation, perpetual imprisonment, or any other condition of life, will be infinitely preferable to so barbarous and insupportable a way of ending it; and means must be found for preventing it, or I shall anticipate the ignominy of the halter, by laying violent hands on myself. Give Mr. C-----r to understand, that he may promise any thing, that he shall think fit, in my name; and that his Royal Highness the Prince, and his Council, shall have no cause to repent of their mercy to me, if they shall be pleased to extend it to so miserable an object as I am, who take shame to myself in being any way concerned in evil practices against the government, which I shall, for the future, pay the utmost

most obedience to, without any manner of reserve.

Let him do this, or any other thing that shall be judged consistent with my escape from the hands of the common hangman, which I cannot think of, without the utmost distraction and confusion. Oh ! that I had never seen that unfortunate town of Preston ; that I had never left my parishioners at Orton for vain and empty chimeras ! Oh ! that I had never pleaded Guilty, and had as little followed the persuasions of my Council so to do, as I did the dictates to right reason, when I embarked in so unpromising an undertaking. Conjure him, I conjure you, instantly to let my Lord of L. know, that it will be a scandal to the gown, a reproach to the Church, to hang a Clergyman, and let there not be a Courtier left untold, that I will come to any terms to save my life.

I can say no more for the apprehensions of approaching death, but that I am,

Dear NANNY,

Your most Affectionate

W. PAUL.

Another to a Clergyman.

Rev. Sir,

IT is as grievous to me, as to lie under the sentence of death, to think myself suspected by any of my brethren the Clergy. What grounds have been given by me for any such un-ge-

ungenerous calumnies, I know not: but by yours to your brother, wherein I seemed to be charged with giving information above, concerning you and other neighbouring divines, wherein I beg you to take from the words of a dying man, who has but very little prospect of life, I never so much as had it in my intentions; you perhaps may think that by reason of some discourse held amongst us, the last time you, with others of the same cloth, met that I might think you as dissatisfied with the present government, as myself; and that thereupon I have sought to make my court to men in power, by such discoveries. But rest assured and tell your neighbour Mr. M. the same, that whatever low steps the fear of going out of the world in so ignominious a manner, as at the gallows, may make me take, I shall never stoop to so base an action as that of turning informer, especially where there is no room to do it, and where gentlemen are to be concerned, whose good characters of me must be the only means of saving my life.

Thus much in relation to the letter your brother shewed me. Now I am to clear myself of a fault, wherewith I am told I am charged in the country, and that is, pleading Guilty. My council indeed advised me to do so, in hopes of mercy, and so did some great men in spiritual high places; which, however, I was determined not to do, had not I, when brought to my trial, perceived men in court that must infallibly have convicted me of being very active in my way, before and after our arrival at Preston; which if I had given the witnesses the trouble of proving, I could have had no chance for my life: among

these

these Mr.---whom you know very well, and caused me to be taken up; and some others, prejudiced enough against me on divers accounts. I could have wished, indeed, that my inexperience in the affairs I left the country upon, might have withheld me from joining in so rash an undertaking as the late rising; but since what is past cannot be recalled, I must beg you, with the rest of the Clergy, to join in a testimonial concerning my behaviour, which I have caused to be sent down into the country, in order to back a petition that is to be presented to the King and Council, for sparing my life; which, if it cannot be obtained, shall, during its continuance, with my latest breath, be employed in praying for you and them.

I am,

Rev. Sir,

Your most afflicted Brother,

and faithful Servant,

W. PAUL.

Newgate,
June 14, 1716.

A Letter to another Clergyman.

Rev. Sir,

JUST before the receipt of yours, I have received orders to prepare for death, on Friday next, and must be very pressing with you to spare no time in communicating what I told you of to her Grace the Dutches, I am very unwilling

willing to take such low steps, but the preservation of life is sweet, and the thoughts of dying by the common hangman are very bitter. I had hopes of the intercession of several other great personages, but was deceived in those expectations, through the false delusion of pretended friends. And now finding nothing left for me to do, but to agree to what conditions shall be imposed on me, no man shall be a more hearty well-wisher to King George's interest, and a greater enemy to the Pretender's, than myself, provided my life can be spared, which it is very grievous for me to think of parting with at these years, and after the manner it is intended for me to lose it. I said at my trial, I had never taken the oaths to King George, but am ready to do it, or almost any thing else, on the terms above mentioned; therefore for God's sake acquit yourself with dispatch, in favour of,

Rev. Sir,

Your affectioned,
and Faithful Servant.

Newgate,
July 5, 1716.

W. PAUL.

The

*The Trial, Behaviour, and last Speech of
JUSTICE HALL, convicted of High Tre-
ason.*

JOHN HALL, Esq. was tried at the Court of Exchequer, Westminster, May 16, 1716.

The evidence set forth, that he joined the Rebels soon after their meeting at Plainfield, and marched with them to Preston, where he was taken:

One evidence was very positive of seeing him at Rodberry, and that he was there with other of the Rebels.

Mr. Patten depos'd, he saw him on horseback among the Rebels, near Wooller.

The prisoner pleaded, that being a Justice of Peace, he had been at the Sessions at Alnwyke, where he heard of the meeting at Plainfield; that he rode thence to a friend's house, where he staid all night, and was going home next day, when, it being a tempestuous season, as he was stooping on his horses neck, with his head to the wind, on a sudden he and his man were surrounded by the Rebels, and carried away by violence; nor had he any arms, or above 7s. 6d. in his pocket. His servant depos'd the same; and that his master was never at Rodberry in the time that had been sworn. But being cross examined, he appeared very backward in answering such questions as were asked him by the King's Council; nor did it appear, even by his evidence, that his masters horses were confined, but that he looked after, and

D d had

had the charge of them as usual, and his master rode them at his pleasure.

Mr. Patten likewise deposed, that he never saw any restraint laid on him, but that he was as much at liberty as himself.

He called some to prove that he expressed his dissatisfaction at being forced along with the Rebels; and said, he had no disaffection to the government.

But it was observed in the charge to the jury, which was spoke to by the whole bench, that it was without doubt, if a man was seen among Rebels, though even if he had been forced thither; and had opportunities (as it appeared the prisoner had frequent ones) to escape from them, and did not do it, but continued by his presence, to abet and comfort them, yet it was treason within the law: that if that allegation of being forced away, was suffered to pass, it would be next to impossible to come at evidence to prove them guilty, and that might pass for force, which was indeed in effect only their own consent and contrivance.

Upon hearing the whole matter, the Jury found him guilty; and being set to the bar, and asked if he had any thing to say why judgement should not pass according to law, he desired a small time to be granted him, saying, he was tried in a strange place, where he knew no body, and by a new law which he did not understand; but had he time, he had many witnesses, who could prove that he was not disaffected to the government, who would give him a good character. But he was told, it was now too late, and the court could not in justice grant his request.

quest. He then said, God's will be done, and sentence was pronounced on him.

After sentence of death, both Mr. Hall and Mr. Paul were visited by a Nonjurant clergyman, who had buoyed them up with the justness of their cause for which they were to die; that though Mr. Paul seemed impatient under the terrors of approaching death, till a little before execution, yet Mr. Hall behaved with great resolution and acquiescence with the dispensations of Providence; and though he spent most of the ready-money he was possessed of, in obtaining reprieves, yet he spent little time upon that affair, being sensible he should be marked out for an example, by reason of the commission which he before held, and for this end had written his speech some weeks before he suffered; which it seems had reached the ears of the government, and probably hastened his death; for it is said, when a certain Lord was making interest in his favour, that request had for answer, "by no means, my Lord; it were a pity Mr. Hall should lose the opportunity of leaving such a speech behind him, as he gives out will rouze the spirit of the whole nation, to be of the same mind with him, and will be instrumental in bringing in the person whom he calls his Lawful Sovereign, King James the third."

Accordingly, July 13, they were carried in a sledge to the place of execution; Mr. Paul in his Canonical habit.

The Speech of William Paul, a Clergyman.

Good People,

I AM just going to make my appearance in the other world, where I must give an account of all the actions of my past life; and though I have endeavoured to make my peace with God, by sincerely repenting of all my sins, yet for as much as several of them were of a public nature, I take it to be my duty to declare here, in the face of the world, my hearty abhorrence and detestation of them.

And first, I ask pardon of God and the King, for having violated my loyalty, by taking most abominable oaths, in defence of usurpation, against my lawful sovereign King James the third.

And as I ask pardon of all whom I have injured or offended, so I do especially desire forgiveness of all those whom I have scandalized by pleading guilty. I am sensible it is a base and dishonourable action, that it is inconsistent with my duty to the King, and an entire surrender of my loyalty. Human frailty, and too great a desire of life, together with the persuasion of several, who pretended to be my friends, were the occasion of it. I trust God of his infinite mercy has forgiven me, and I hope all good christians will.

You see, my countrymen, by my habit, that I die a son, though a very unworthy one, of the Church of England; but I would not have you think I am a member of the Schismatical Church, whose Bishops set themselves up in opposition to those orthodox fathers, who were unlawfully and

and invalidly deprived by the Prince of Orange. I declare that I renounce that communion, and that I die a dutiful and faithful member of the Nonjuring Church, which has kept itself free from rebellion and schism, and has preserved and maintained true orthodox principles both as to church and state: and I desire the Clergy and all members of the Revolution Church, to consider what bottom they stand upon, when their succession is grounded upon an unlawful and invalid derivation of Catholic Bishops, the only foundation of which deprivation is a pretended act of parliament.

Having asked forgiveness for myself, I come now to forgive others. I pardon those who, under a notion of friendship, persuaded me to plead guilty. I heartily forgive all my most inveterate enemies, especially the elector of Hanover, my Lord Townsend, and others, who have been instrumental in promoting my death. Father, forgive them! Lord Jesus have mercy upon them! and lay not this sin to their charge.

The next thing I have to do, Christian friends, is, to exhort all to return to your duty. Remember that King James the third is your only rightful sovereign, by the laws of the land, and the constitution of the kingdom; and therefore, if you would perform the duty of justice to him which is due to all mankind, you are obliged, in conference, to do all you can to restore him to his crown: for it is his right; and no man in the world, besides himself, can claim a title to it. And as it is your duty to serve him, so it is your interest; for till he is restored, the nation can never be happy. You see what miseries and calamities have befallen this nation by the Revolution; and I believe you are now convinc-

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ed, by woeful experience, that swerving from God's laws, and thereby putting yourselves out of his protection, is not the way to secure you from those evils and misfortunes you are afraid of in this world. Before the revolution, you thought your religion, liberties, and properties in danger; and I pray you to consider, how you have preserved them by rebelling: are they not ten times more precarious than ever? who can say he is certain of his life or estate, when he considers the proceedings of the present administration? and as for your religion, is it not evident that the revolution, instead of keeping out Popery, has let in Atheism? do not heresies abound every day, and are not the teachers of false doctrine patronised by the great men in the government? this shews the kindness and affection they have for the church; and to give you another instance of the respect and reverence they have for it, you are now going to see a priest of the Church of England murdered for doing his duty; for it is not me they strike at so particularly, but it is through me they would wound the priesthood, being a disgrace upon the gown, and a scandal upon the sacred functions. But they would do well to remember, that he who despises Christ's priests, despises Christ; and he who despises him, despises him that sent him.

And now beloved, if you have any regard to your country, which lies bleeding under these dreadful extremites, bring the King to his undoubted right; that is the only way to be freed from these misfortunes, and to secure all those rights and privileges which are in danger at present. King James has promised to protect

and

and defend the Church of England, he has given his royal word to consent to such laws which you yourself shall think necessary to be made for its preservation. And his Majesty is a prince of that justice, virtue, and honour, that you have no reason to doubt of the performance of his royal promise. He studies nothing so much as to make you all easy and happy, and whenever he comes to his kingdom, I doubt not but you will be so.

I shall be heartily glad, good people, if what I have said has any effect upon you, so as to be instrumental in making you perform your duty. It is out of my power now to do any thing more to serve the King, than by employing some of the few minutes I have to live in this world, in praying Almighty God to shower down his blessing, spiritual, and temporal, upon his head, to protect and restore him, to be favourable to his understanding, to prosper him here, and to reward him hereafter. I beseech the same infinite goodness to protect and defend the Church of England, and to restore it to all its just rights, and privileges; and lastly, I pray God to have mercy upon me, pardon my sins, and receive my soul into his everlasting kingdom, that with the Patriarchs, Prophets, Apostles, and Martyrs, I may praise and magnify him for ever and ever. Amen.

As to my body, brethren, I have taken no care of it, for I value not that barbarous part of my sentence, of being cut down and quartered. When I am once gone, I shall be out of my reach of my enemies; and I wish I had quarters enough to send to every parish in the kingdom, to testify that a Clergyman of the

Church

Church of England was martyred for being loyal to his King.

July 13, 1716.

WILLIAM PAUL.

The Speech of John Hall, Esq. deliver'd to the Sheriff.

Friends, Bretheren, and Countrymen:

AM come here to die, for the sake of God, my King; and my country; and I am heartily glad that I am counted worthy of so great an honour; for let not any of you think I am come to a shameful and ignominious end. The truth and justness of the cause for which I suffer, makes my death a duty, a virtue, and an honour. Remember that I lay down my life for asserting the right of my only lawful sovereign King James the third, that I offer myself a victim for the liberties and happiness of my dear country, and my beloved fellow subjects; that I fall a sacrifice to tyranny, oppression, and usurpation. In short, consider that I suffer in defence of the command of God, and the laws, and the hereditary constitution of the land; and then know and be assured, that I am not a Traytor, but a Martyr.

I declare that I die a true and sincere member of the Church of England, but not of the revolution schismatical church, whose Bishops have so rebelliously abandon'd the King, and so shamefully given up the right of the church, by submitting to the unlawful, invalid, lay-deprivations of the Prince of Orange. The communion I die in, is that of the true catholic non-juring Church of England, and I pray God to prosper and increase it, and to grant (if it be his good pleasure) that it may rise again and flourish.

I heartily

I heartily beg pardon of all whom at any time I have injured or offended. I do particularly implore forgiveness of God and my King, for having so far swerved from my duty, as to comply with the usurpation, in swearing allegiance to it, and acting in public post by the usurpers commissions, which were void of all power and authority. God knows my heart, I did this at first through ignorance and error, but after I had recollected myself, and informed my judgment better, I repented, and drew my sword for the King, and now submit myself to this violent death for his sake. I heartily pray to God for patience, and that my sufferings may atone for my former crimes; and this I beg through the merits, mediation, and sufferings of my dearest Saviour Jesus Christ.

I do sincerely forgive all my enemies, especially those who have either caused or increased the destruction in church and state; I pray God have mercy upon them, and spare them, because they are the works of his own hands, and because they are redeemed with his Son's most precious blood. I do particularly forgive, from the bottom of my heart, the elector of Brunswick, who murders me; my unjust pretended Judges and Jury, who convicted and condemned me; Mr. Patten and Mr. Carnabe who were evidences against me at my trial. And here declare upon the words of a dying man (and all my Northumberland fellow prisoners can testify the same) that the evidence they gave was so far from being the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth; that in relation to my indictment, they swore not one true thing against me, but many absolute

absolute falsehoods. I pray God forgive them, for I am sure I do.

Lastly, I forgive all who had a hand in the surrender of Preston, for they have surrendered away my life; and I would to God that was the only bad consequence of it. But alas! it is too plain, that the surrenders not only ruined many of his Majesty's brave and faithful subjects, but gave up their King and country into the bargain; for then it was in their power to have restored the King in triumph to his throne, and thereby to have made us a happy people. We had repulsed our enemies at every attack, and were ready, willing, and able to have attacked them.

On our side, even our common men were brave, courageous, and resolute: on the other hand, theirs were directly the contrary, so much that after they had run away from our first fire, they could never be brought so much as to endeavour to stand a second. This I think myself obliged in justice to mention, that Mr. Wills may not impose upon the world, as if he and his troops had conquered us, and gained the victory; for the truth is, after we had conquer'd them, our superiors thought fit to capitulate and ruin us; I wish them God's and the King's pardon for it.

May it please God to bless, preserve, and restore our only rightful and lawful King James the third; may he direct his counsels, and prosper his arms; may he bring him to his kingdom, and set the crown upon his head.

May he protect him from the malice of his enemies, and defend him from those, who, for a reward, would slay him innocent! may he grant him in health and wealth long to live; may

may he strengthen him that he may vanquish and overcome all his enemies; and finally, when it pleases his infinite wisdom to take him out of this world, may he take him to himself, and reward him with an everlasting crown of glory in the next.

These, my beloved Countrymen, are the sincere prayers, these are the last words of me who am a dying person; and if you have any regard to the last breath of one who is just going out of the world, let me beg of you to be dutiful, obedient, and loyal to your only sovereign liege Lord King James the Third: be ever ready to serve him, and be sure you never fail to use all your endeavours to restore him; and whatever the consequence be, remember that you have a good cause, and a gracious God, and expect a recompence from him.

To that God, the God of truth and holiness, the rewarder of all who suffer for righteousness sake, I commend my soul, beseeching him to have mercy upon it for the sake of my dear Redeemer, and merciful Saviour, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen, Amen, Amen.

July 13, 1716.

JOHN HALL.

POSTSCRIPT.

“ I might reasonably have expected my life would have been saved, since I had obtained five reprieves; but I find that the Duke of Hanover, and his evil Counsellors who guide him, have so little virtue and honour themselves, that they are resolved not to spare my life, because I would not purchase it upon base and dishonourable terms.

I have

“ I have reason to think that at first I could have secured both life and fortune, if I would have pleaded guilty; and I doubt not but I might since have obtained favour, if I would have petitioned in a vile scandalous manner: But I was resolved to do nothing whereby I should have disowned my King, and denied my principles; and I thank my good God, both for inspiring me with this holy resolution, and for giving me the grace to perform it.”

July 13, 1716.

JOHN HALL.

Mr. Paul, a Clergyman, and a late member of the Nonjuring church of England, to use his, and Mr Hall’s expressions, would never enter into argument with the Ordinary concerning his principles.

When he and Mr. Hall were carried to Tyburn, as soon as they were taken out of the fledge into the cart, they desired to have a minister of their own communion to pray with them, which was granted; and a minister stepped into the cart, and prayed by them a considerable time, and then suddenly went off.

No sooner had he made his exit, but Mr. Paul began to read his speech, wherein, as he was reflecting on the late revolution, and the instruments of it, sparing neither crowned heads nor the Bishops and Ministers that were legally consecrated, nor any others that had taken an oath to it, he was desired to forbear such unbecoming expressions; upon which he stopt, and both he and Mr. Hall delivered each of them a paper to the Sheriff.

Then Mr. Lorrain went up to pray by them, but Mr. Paul being then on his knees, reading a prayer

prayer in writing, he did not disturb him, but let him go on in his reading ; but when he had done, and was got up, he addressed himself to them, telling them, he was come to do his last duty to their souls, which he heartily recommended to God, praying him that he would be pleased to enlighten their dark minds, and undeceive their deluded hearts, that they might acknowledge the truth, renounce their errors, and ask pardon of God and the King, and these nations, that they and their party had so much disturbed ; and to advise the people to be loyal and truely religious, but they still persisted in endeavouring to justify their actions to the standers-by, who seemed to be so far from liking, that they shewed a great abhorrence of their practices and speeches.

They seemed not desirous of his prayers, nor would they kneel at them, as they did at the nonjuring minister's. Upon this he told them, that since they were unwilling to kneel down with him, he would stay till they were tied up, which he did, and then prayed.

When he had begun, Mr. Paul seemed to be affected, and would fain have knelt down, but was told he could not.

Mr. Hall would not at all join in prayer with him, but all the while turned his back upon him ; upon which, when he had done praying, he thus addressed him : Mr. Hall, " methinks you " might have been more serious and more civil : " what harm have I now done to you, in " imploring God's mercy to your soul ? One " would think you might very well have joined

"with me herein, &c." But he made me no reply.

Having given them further admonition, and begged God, of his infinite goodness through Christ, to convert and save them, he left them to their private devotions; then the cart drawing away, and they being turned off, the people gave a mighty shout, and with loud acclamations said, God save King George.

The Trial of WILLIAM PITTS, Keeper of Newgate, for the Escape of General Forster.

ON Saturday, July 14, 1716, WILLIAM PITTS, Gent. was indicted for High Treason; for whereas he, being keeper of the gaol of Newgate, on or before the 8th of December last; and whereas Thomas Forster, junior, a false rebel and traytor to his most excellent Majesty King George, was, on the day aforesaid, committed to him, to be kept close and secure in the said gaol, till he should be discharged by due course of law, he the said prisoner, on the 11th of April last, not having the fear of God in his heart, but being moved by the instigation of the devil, &c. as a false traytor, did permit, aid, and abet the said Thomas Forster to make his escape out of the said gaol, contrary to the duty of his allegiance, &c.

The Council for the King having opened the indictment, setting forth the nature and manner of the offence, the Lord Townshend's warrant

for the commitment of Mr. Forster was proved, which occasioned some debates between the council on both sides; but the objections on the part of the prisoner being over-ruled, the witnesses were sworn.

Mr. Reuse deposed, that on the day mentioned in the indictment, Mr. Forster was committed to Newgate, into the custody of the prisoner his master, and remained so till he made his escape; that it was the custom in the said prison, both before and since that time, sometimes at 11, and sometimes at 12 o'clock at night, to put the guards into the press-yard, which was the business of Mr. Ballad, his fellow Turnkey; and when he had done that, and every thing was made secure, his master, Mr. Pitts, received the keys, and took particular care of Mr. Forster himself; that his master was always very diligent in performing his duty, and told him he went to the secretary's office, to acquaint them with the necessity of a guard, which was accordingly ordered, and besides was at the charge of two watchmen, who took their turns every night, who were to inspect the soldiers, and prevent their being bribed: that on the night Mr. Forster made his escape, he being asleep in the lodge, his master came to him very much surprized, and told him, that which had been his greatest care, would now be his ruin, and shewed him a false key; upon which he told him, there was a man in the prison who had been a servant to the City-smith, who was called and examined; but he denied he knew any thing of the making that key, and that then his master ordered him immediately to be straitly confined. That then Mr. Ballad and he took a-link, went to Billingsgate,

lingsgate, and enquired at the Dark-house if any person had just gone off in a boat, or had bespoken a passage to Gravesend, or waited for the tide, which he saw coming in; and at last was informed, that at the Gun-tavern were a couple of gentlemen who waited for a third, to go to Gravesend, upon which he went to them but found them to be Dutch gentlemen. From thence he went to Queenhithe, enquiring all the way, without acquainting any body with the occasion; and thence to Black-fryers, where he was informed a single gentleman had just crossed the water with a sculler; upon which he took boat, and enquired at the watch-house on the other side, and was informed that the person who crossed, was a neighbour there, very much in liquor, but could learn nothing of Mr. Forster; that then not knowing what to do farther, he came home. He also deposed, that Mr. Forster's room was very strong, and more secure than any room in the prison; and that the prisoner could make no noise or disturbance without waking his master, who lay upon the same floor, there being only a partition betwixt them, that the prison was full, ten or 12 persons being confined in one room, and that none of them were in irons, not so much as Mr. Forster's man; adding, that he believed his master was not at all consenting to Mr. Forster's escape; and thought, if that was his case, and he had taken bribes, he should rather have chosen to have gone along with him than have staid to bear the heavy load which such a crime would certainly bring upon him. That Count Guiscard was also confined in the prisoner's house, by order, and Mr. Nauvey, for high treason,

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it being thought by the ministry to be the safest place.

Mr. Ballad deposed, that he went to lock up Mr. Forster, and saw him come out of the press-yard, appearing melancholy, and complaining he was tired with reading; and after he had put the guards into the press-yard, gave his master the keys as he used to do. He observed his master to be extraordinary careful of Mr. Forster, that he should not escape; that his master had given all his servants charge to take no bribes, which the Rebels were very free to offer, and that he himself might have taken 5000l. in his time, if he would have been false to his trust: that when Mr. Forster was gone, he came to him like a man distracted, knocking his head against the wainscot, crying out he was ruin'd, undone, &c. and that he did verily believe his master was not concerned in his escape: that Mr. Foster did very often go up to the necessary house, and he always staid at the chamber door till he came down, knowing it to be impossible for any person to get out above.

Being asked by the King's Council, if it was usual for the prisoner to visit the Rebels after they were locked up, he replied, no. Again they asked, that if Mr. Anderton and Mr. Forster had taken his master by the throat, could he have rung the bell, or given any notice? to which he replied, he might make his black bear, who had arms, in which case, they could go no further, the keys being locked up; that his master might let in the soldiers upon any disturbance; or the soldiers in the lodge might hear, upon firing a gun, and come to their assistance; that his master attended all last winter in the

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severest season, and was indefatigable in his diligence and care in securing the prisoners.

Mr. Revel deposed, he went to lock up the prisoners about eleven o'clock at night; that his master bid him make haste, and when he had done he gave him the key; that Mr. Anderton, Mr. Forster, and his master, were then above stairs in Mr. Forster's room, sitting over a flask of wine, his master with his back to the door, the other two facing it; that his master asked him if all was safe, and he told him it was, and bid him good-night, and then went out, and Mr. Pitt's black shut the door after him: that being sent for after this to his master, he said to him, "Ah, Revel, I am undone, Forster is gone, pray go to the watch and enquire." That his master was a very careful man, and never satisfied but when up and down to see that all was safe; and had turned away one Mills for having been drunk once upon his duty, and never would be persuaded to take him again; and confirmed what was said by Mr. Ballad of his diligence in the frosty weather.

Then Calliband (Mr. Pitt's black,) deposed, having been christened, that on the night aforesaid he went to the press-yard to Mr. Revel, and there he saw Mr. Anderton, and told them his master wanted to go to bed; then he lighted Mr. Anderton up stairs, and Mr. Forster opened the door and asked Mr. Anderton to drink a glass of wine with him, who refused it then; but afterwards he saw them and his master together. When the guards were shut in, and Mr. Revel gone, he made all fast after him, and carried the keys to his mistress, and she bid him carry them to his master, and coming down stairs he met Forster's man,

man, who told him he was dry, upon which he bid him go with him to the cellar, and he would draw him some beer, but the other refused it and stood on the stairs; and while he was in the kitchen looking for a pot, his master called him, but he could not get out, till at last his master saw a peg stuck in, which he pulled out, and then the door opened, which made him cry out, "I am undone, Forster is gone"; and then he bid him fetch the key, and, going to the door, found one in it on the outside, and the door double-locked. Then he got out at the window, and found Mr. Forster's night-gown lying upon the steps, which he threw into the parlour, and took out the false key; then went to the lodge, and called Mr. Rewse; a piece of list was also found under the latch: that all this was done, and the chain taken off, without the least noise, as he believed might be; that the keys were always left in his master's chamber; that when his master saw Forster's gown in the parlour, he fell into a very great passion with the maid, and he believed him to be innocent.

Mr. Buckley deposed, that the prisoner came to him, and said, he was ruined, Forster was gone, that he had taken care to have all things fast and close just before, and had put the keys into his own bed-chamber, divided from Mr. Forster's but by a thin partition: That Mr. Forster complained he was tired with reading, and was desirous to refresh himself with a glass of wine, and Mr. Anderton came up to him, and while they were drinking, Mr. Forster pretended to go to the necessary house; but staying some time, he suspected him, and looked

for

for him; but not finding him there, he went to the main door, and found a list under the latch, and then he shewed him the true key and a false one, and bid him observe the true key was a little daubed with clay, and said, he suspected somebody had taken a print of it to make another by. Then he told him the guards were always put into the press-yard before that time of night. That he asked him if he had sent to stop the post, it being discover'd about twelve o'clock; he answer'd, no, but shewed him an advertisement which he would have put into the news; but he told him, the news would not come out till next morning, and advised him to go back to the prison, to prevent the like misfortune from any other. Then he asked what he should do, for he was afraid he should be examined upon oath, which he believed he might refuse, because he should be put to answer questions that might be of ill consequence to him; but not from any sense of his guilt, or disrespect to any person whatever.

That after this, he and Mr. Stanian were order'd to Newgate, to inspect Mr. Forster's lodgings, and the prisoners chamber; and he (Mr. Buckley) seeing a close-stool there, asked Mr. Rewse if that was always in the room? he made answer, that where there was a close prisoner, there was always a close-stool: that after this, he was applied to for relief for some of the Rebels who were in irons, and was told that Brigadier M'Intosh's leg was wore to the bone; but finding that to be false, he forbore to trouble the Lord Townshend about it.

Mr. Stanian depos'd, that the Lord Townshend sent for him, telling him that Mr. Forster

ter had made his escape, and bid him go immediately to Newgate, and see after what manner it was done; which he did accordingly: and Mr. Pitts informed him, that himself, Mr. Forster, and Mr. Anderton, were setting in Mr. Forster's room, over a flask of wine; and when it was something above half gone, Mr. Forster went up, as he thought, to the necessary-house, and his heart misgave him, and therefore he went up after him; but to his great surprize, found he was not there; and going down, found the thall of the latch deadned by a piece of list; and a peg put into the kitchen-door, by which his servyant was confined; who being afterwards released, and getting out of a window, found his night-gown left upon the steps. Then he shewed him the key, with the mark of the clay: Upon which I asked him how any body should come by that key, he having it always in his possession? to this he answered, the key was always in the door in the day time. Then the prisoner was referring him to Mr. Anderton, who, he said, told him afterwards Mr. Forster went down stairs, pretending to wash a glaſſ, in order to fill out some brandy. Mr. Anderton also told him, they were both surprized at Mr. Forster's escape, and protested he knew nothing of the matter, he having said, when he went down, it was to wash a glaſſ.

Then an act for attainting Thomas Forster Esq. and Brigadier M'Intosh, was read, and evidence produced, that Mr. Forster received a copy of his indictment, and a pannel of his Jury, &c. as the law directs.

Then the council for the prisoner made their defence; alledging, that nothing had been produced

duced to support the indictment, which wa^s founded upon an obsolete statute, made in the reign of K. Edward II. upon which no prosecution had been before commenced; that therefore this being the first that had appeared, and so weakly supported, having nothing but presumptive evidence, which (as they said) should always be of use to the prisoner, especially where life was concerned, and especially where there were so many proofs of the prisoner's vigilance and care, as had appeared, and should be made appear in the case of the prisoner before them; he humbly hoped, the Jury would think themselves obliged to acquit him, they being upon oath, to judge of the fact by the evidence.

Then they called Prudence Symonds, who deposed, she was the prisoner's servant-maid, and her mistress being just gone to bed, and the keys brought in, her master came down in a terrible surprize, and said, "he was undone, Mr. Forster "was gone"; and he was very angry with her, and swore he would secure her, believing she was concerned in his escape, because he saw Forster's night-gown in the parlour; but when his black told him, he threw the gown in at the window, he was satisfied with her. She also deposed, her master lay in the room even with Mr. Forster, their beds lying head to head; but before he used to lie with his wife in another room. She also added, that Mr. Forster often used to go to the necessary-house.

Margaret Hawkins deposed, that her master Pitts was a very careful diligent man, and confirmed the evidence of the black, and the maid her fellow-servant.

Mr. Smith (the clerk of Newgate) deposed likewise several circumstances, which made the prisoner's care and diligence appear very conspicuous; especially his attending in the hard winter almost to a miracle, and beyond his own capacity always examining who came in and who went out; that when Mr. Mills was turned out, though he had been a servant almost forty years in the prison, he could never persuade the prisoner to receive him again into his service, so loathsome did he appear to him for being but once drunk upon his duty. He also deposed, that brigadier M'Intosh was ironed when he made his escape, which was of no service, the strongest irons not holding out against some instruments above an hour and half. These instruments were produced in Court, and shewn to the Jury, and that it was impossible to prevent their being brought to the prisoners in people's pockets, or other conveyances, which it would be too tedious to examine.

Then Mr. Fells (the former keeper) deposed, there were several persons, in his time, committed for High Treason, and confined in the house, and in the same room as Forster was, viz. the Lord Glencarts, Sir John Friend, Sir William Perkins, and others, and that it was as strong, and more convenient than any other in the goal: and his evidence was confirmed by two others.

Mr. Mills deposed, he had been forty years a servant in that prison, and belonged to it in Major Richardson's time, when the Lord Russel and Count Courugsmark were confined there in the same room, till their time of the death.

Then several honourable and worthy persons appeared to the prisoner's reputation; as Sir William Withers, Sir Richard Haare, Sir Samuel Garrard, Sir William Humphreys, Sir Samuel Stannier, Sir William Stewart, Sir Randolph Knife, Sir Francis Forbes, and others, who all gave him the character of a very careful, fair, honest man.

Then Calliband, the prisoner's black, stood up again, and swore, his master sent him immediately to the turnpike at Highgate, to examine all passengers.

Then the prisoner himself said, he was perfectly innocent of the charge laid in the indictment; that he had not the least previous apprehensions of the prisoner's escape; that his circumstances before this unhappy accident, were of themselves sufficient to place him above the reach of bribes; that he had it in his power to let all prisoners escape, and to go along with them; that it was even his extraordinary care that brought this misfortune upon him; and that since he had but followed the practice of former Jailors, it would be hard if he should fall the first victim to the consequence of a mere accident; the rather, because he had been often rewarded by the government for his care and prudence in so doing.

Then the King's council replied, and contradicted that part of the plea of the council for the prisoner, which laid the indictment on the statute of Edward II, and put it on the foot of the 25th of Edward III, and said, the Jury were to be judges of facts, and that presumption when strong, and when the nature of the case will admit of no other evidence, was good in civil law, common

mon law, and all the law in the world; that justice was to take place in a court of judicature that mercy belonged to the throne: That it was plain, notwithstanding what had been said by the council on the other side, that the prisoner had at least been very negligent in his duty, in permitting the chief man in the rebellion to escape, whose imprisonment they had reason to believe, might have done the crown more service than all the others put together; especially at a time when he had received notice to prepare for the trial: that it was strange that, at such a time there was not a particular care taken to confine, him to his room; that his very servant, without whose assistance he would not probably have made his escape, and whose quality could be no excuse, should not be ironed; that he should go to drinking with the said Mr. Forster, particularly at so unseasonable a juncture, when the guards were all turned into the press-yard, nobody but himself and his black in a condition to resist the very probable attempts of three or four prisoners for high treason, especially when the keys of the doors, and of the whole gaol were but in the next room, and prisoners of such consequence, as no quality or consideration could excuse his putting himself into their power; that he should suffer the said Mr. Forster, knowing his servant to be perfectly free from irons, to go at such a time out of the room at his own discretion, without the least observation or regard; that such pretended circumstances, as a false key, a lift under the latch, a peg-hole in the kitchen door, and other contrivances, should all be ready at a minute's warning; that the prisoner's servants should all

be up in the house, and, with himself, all amused, and out of the way, just at this juncture; that all this liberty should be taken without leave of the secretary of state, having no authority but custom, having no countenance in it but the government's satisfaction in his care and integrity, which he was to abuse at his peril, and of which he appeared to be very sensible; and that all this should be done without his being the least acquainted with it, or let into the secret of it; especially a man of his care, his vigilance, and his integrity and diligence, was wonderous strange. That it was not expected that such a case should admit of positive evidence, there being none produced but those who were the prisoner's servants, and whose places depended upon him; the most considerable of which were dismissed for that night before the treason was committed, as persons unqualified by their integrity for such a secret. But it was to be hoped there was sufficient ground for the indictment, in a case of this close nature, when a servant confessed he might, in that small time he was employed in an inferior trust, have had 5000l. for such services; when it appeared plain the prisoner did not use, upon such occasions, to visit his prisoners after they were locked up; when there was such a remarkable neglect in not going to the Post-Office to stop the Post, the most likely method of recovering the prisoner, till next day at noon; and when it appeared he was so unwilling to be examined upon oath; these considerations they left to the Jury.

The Lord Chief Baron Bury having then summed up the evidence very fully, the Jury went out, and, being returned, acquitted him.

The

The audacious behaviour of WILLIAM SHELTON and THOMAS JACOBS, convicted of a Misdemeanour, and an Assault.

WILLIAM SKELTON, otherwise HANBURY BEAUMONT, and THOMAS JACOBS, otherwise MORRIS, of the parish of St. Bride's, were indicted for a misdemeanour, in forging and counterfeiting a letter testimonial in the name of the Rector and Fellows of Lincoln College in Oxford, to the Rt. Reverend the Lord bishop of Lincoln, and publishing the same, in order to procure ordinations, and by which ordination was accordingly procured.

To prove this, one Middlebrook was sworn, who deposed, that at the beginning of February last, he came to Mr. Collins, Dr. Sacheverel's curate, and told him he was destitute of a lodging, and desired him to recommend him to some friend of his; accordingly he recommended him to Mr. Lewis's in the Fleet, where the prisoner Jacobs then lodged; and he was soon admitted into the greatest intimacy with him, and was his bedfellow. In which time the prisoner Skelton came to town, as he said, from Leicestershire, and told Jacobs, he heard there was an ordination to be very speedily, and he wanted to be admitted into orders, and would go to the bishop of Lincoln, but was afraid he should meet with difficulty for want of a testimonial. Upon which Jacobs replied, he had his still by him, and they might make one by that, and immediately went about it, and drew it up. Then

the title of a living was written, which the evidence, though much importuned, having refused to do, they over-persuaded him to write a copy of it, assuring him there would be no crime in that; which he did, but would not be induced to sign a name to the testimonial, the two first of which, viz. the Rector and Senior Fellow of Lincoln College were wrote by Skelton, the third by another person, and the two last by Jacobs: All this was done that morning that Jacobs had married three or four couple in his chamber.

Being thus provided, Shelton went to the Bishop, and produced his letter and title, by the credit of which he was ordained by him at Lambeth, as was proved in court by his Lordship's secretary. After which he came home, and told the evidence Middlebrook, he was ordained; who replied, he hoped he would make a right use of it, and reform his scandalous course of life. To which Skelton answered,

“ Yes, by G--d, I will tell you a pretty story:
“ last night I lay with a of couple whores, and in
“ the morning I bid one of them turn up my
“ shirt and give me a slap of the a--, and
“ wish me good luck, for I was going to be or-
“ dained that day,

The prisoners, both by themselves and Council, endeavoured to clear themselves of the indictment, by discrediting Middlebrook's evidence, and called some persons, who swore he varied in it before my Lord Mayor, in the circumstances of the names; swearing there, that Skelton wrote the three first. To which he replied, the third man was a stranger to him, and it was a mistake in his memory; but upon recollection he believed his name was Vizey, who wrote

wrote the name Gul. Watts in the middle. Upon this they called one Corbet, who swore he himself wrote that name; which very circumstance, though brought in by themselves, proved the fact to be a forgery, and agreed with the tenor of the evidence in general. But there being no proof that Jacobs published the said testimonial, therefore the Jury brought Skelton in guilty of the indictment, and Jacobs only of the forgery.

They were a second time indicted for an assault on the person of Brian Burton, on the 5th of May last, between the hours of nine and ten at night, in the parish aforesaid.

Mr. Burton deposed, that he was an hostler, at the Bell Inn in Warwick-lane, and coming down by Fleet-ditch with his white apron on, the prisoner Jacobs being in a black suit, and Skelton in his gown and caffock, came to him, and one of them, which was the parson, held down his arms, whilst the other cut him over his hand and one of his fingers; and abused him thus without the least provocation, or notice: but Skelton perceiving the mistake, said, "d---n you, Tom, this is not the man, let him alone;" which expression, he believed, saved his life, which the other, with his hanger lifted up, was just going to take away. Upon this he cried out, but the people seeing a parson run, were unwilling to apprehend him, till they were acquainted with the reason, and then they took him and carried him to an alehouse, and were followed by the other prisoner Jacobs, who made a great disturbance, swearing and cursing, with his hanger in his hand; which, with much ado, was taken from him. Then a constable

was sent for, who also disarmed the parson, who had another hanger under his gown.

There were several witnesses who swore to the particulars of this evidence; and a surgeon deposed, that the prosecutor had lost the use of his finger.

The prisoners in their defence said, the prosecutor was the aggressor, and called two witnesses to prove it, one of whom only swore he saw at about fifty yards distance, the prosecutor jostle the gentlemen, and heard him call them rogues and villains, before the gentlemen struck him, and afterwards heard him say to the parson, "Sir, you have saved my life;" but he was not credited, his evidence being full of improbabilities and contradictions.

Then Skelton moved it to the court to consider that he was not the man that struck him, and that all the part he had in this affair, was a kind interposing between his friend and the prosecutor, which the last confessed prolonged his life.

But being asked what occasion could justify their having hangers under their cloaths, especially under a minister's gown; they said, they had been drinking, and were under apprehensions of an arrest: which being no legal excuse, and the prosecutor having sworn that Skelton held down his arms, the jury found them both guilty of the indictment, but recommended Skelton to the favour of the Court, who returned their kindness in his way from the bar, with execrable vollies of oaths and curses.

The Court fined Jacobs fifty pounds for the assault, eighty pounds for the forgery, and three years imprisonment. Skelton was fined twenty pounds

pounds for the assault, and one hundred pounds for the forgery and publication, and three years imprisonment; and to stand in the pillory at Salisbury Court end.

The Trial and remarkable Speech of WILLIAM STAPLES, convicted for the Murder of Nicholas Bonner.

WILLIAM STAPLES, of St. James's Westminster, was indicted the 7th of July, 1716, for the murder of Nicholas Bonner, by giving him a mortal wound with a pistol charged with a leaden bullet and gunpowder, on the left part of the head near the jawbone, of which wound he instantly died.

The first evidence deposed, that she lived with the prisoner's wife six years, in which time she observed the deceased to be very familiar with her, and took the opportunity of the prisoner's being abroad at service, as often as he came from sea to visit her, and very often, more like a husband than a friend. That on the day mentioned in the indictment, the deceased being in the prisoner's house, his wife persuaded her, this evidence, to let him lie with her husband, and that night the prisoner lay with his wife; but coming down early next morning he was surprised to see the deceased in his house, and bid him be gone, telling him he had often forewarned him of his house, on account of his familiarity with his wife. Upon which, Bonner made a very surly reply, and told him he had

more

more right to her than himself, and afterwards demanded a pistol of him, which the prisoner's wife told him he had in his hand ; upon which they struggled, and it proving a mistake, Bonner threw his glove at the prisoner several times and bid him meet him, to fight him, at Oliver's Mount, which, with much ado, the prisoner agreed to ; but Bonner did not meet him according to appointment. Whereupon when the prisoner came home and saw him still with his wife, he discharged his pistol, and shot him dead upon the spot.

The next evidence deposed, that Bonner came in drunk, and asked for Mrs. Staples, who received him, and went up stairs with him ; after which, the prisoner came in, and Bonner was hid : but having an opportunity he went out, and afterwards came in again with some brandy, and when the prisoner came down, he saw Bonner, who bid him good Morrow ; but the prisoner bid him depart, he did not like his company ; upon which they quarrelled.

There were several other evidences to the same purpose, but all agreed in this, of Bonner's being too familiar with the prisoner's wife, and that the prisoner had often forbid him his house.

The deceased's sister deposed, that her brother gave her a visit the night before this accident, and staid with her till five o'clock in the morning, when, seeing the prisoner's door open, he swore he would go to Mrs. Staples, which she endeavoured to prevent, by persuading him to the contrary as much as she could, but he being drunk, would, and did go ; and in a few hours after, she heard he was killed : which fatal

that news hurried her to the prisoner's house, where the deceased lay dead; upon which she called the prisoner villain and rogue, and told him he had killed her brother in the most unhappy season, being debauched in liquors, and no ways prepared for such an accident. To which he replied, very coldly, as if his mind was just made easy, that he was not at all sorry for his fate, it having restored him to the condition of a happy man; and if it were still to do, he would do it.

She ended her evidence with saying, she was too well acquainted with the familiarity between the prisoner's wife and her brother, and if he had lost his life when sober, the prisoner had done him but justice.

The prisoner, in his defence, with a cheerful air, and modest demeanour, thus addressed himself to the Court.

"My Lord, and you Gentlemen of the Jury,

"Six years ago I married this woman, and with her the whole crowd of plagues and misfortunes which attend an honest man in so unhappy a choice. Some time after, when it was too late, I was informed by one Hall, who also had been too familiar with her, both before and after she was my wife, whom I did persuade her to abandon, that there was a person coming from sea, one Bonner, who would serve me just as I had been served by him; but I believing it to be only a revengeful expression, took no notice of it at that time. Some time after this, my wife pretending abundance of love and sincerity, told me, she

"owed

“ owed a great deal of money, which she never
“ told me of before, begged my pardon, fell on
“ her knees, and desired me to get a place in the
“ country, out of knowledge, till we should be
“ able to satisfy our creditors; which I, believ-
“ ing her, and trusting to her fidelity, consented
“ to, and having an opportunity, took service
“ in a worthy family there: but coming to town
“ some time after, I found that this was nothing
“ but a mere contrivance to get me out of the
“ way, the more freely to enjoy Bonner’s com-
“ pany; for coming home, I caught them at
“ dinner, and I asked him if his name was not
“ Bonner? who replied, yes. Sir, said I, I
“ have heard of you before; pray forbear com-
“ ing to my house, for you have no business
“ here, and I desire never to see you again: upon
“ which he went away. Then I told my wife,
“ I had now caught her; I had often heard that
“ Bonner kept her company, but now I found
“ it to be true, though she had always denied it;
“ but bid her take care he never came into her
“ company again. After this, I being abroad,
“ a young woman was salivated at my house,
“ and there died, and from thence was buried,
“ and my wife sent me word she must see Bon-
“ ner again, he having promised to pay her 50 l.
“ for her care and charges, but would never ad-
“ mit of any indecent familiarities with him.
“ But after this I found the deceased at my house
“ again, and he turned me out of doors, which
“ I thought very hard, and made me almost
“ distracted. In which condition I went again
“ into the country, and having still a desire to
“ know what passed between them, sent a letter
“ to her, directed in her former name, that she
“ might

“ might be the more induced to receive it, which
“ having done from the bearer, she and Bonner
“ turned him out of doors too, with expressions
“ of the vilest nature. Then I sent several
“ others by the common post, but could never
“ receive an answer; and all this while she and
“ her gallant lived upon my substance. At last
“ I got a woman of his acquaintance to carry a
“ letter, and read it to her, and expostulate the
“ matter with her about her manner of life, and
“ the most barbarous behaviour to the man who
“ had done so much for her, and bore so many
“ injuries from her; but all that she could get
“ from him was, You may tell him I am well.

“ But when I found that nothing would do by
“ such means, and saw Bonner with my wife
“ again, and told him if he did not go away, I
“ would treat him as he deserved, and look upon
“ him as a felon. Upon which he swore he had
“ more right to my wife than I had, and that he
“ had a child by her almost six years ago. But
“ after he was gone, notwithstanding the great
“ affection which my wife discovered to the said
“ Bonner, and her ingratitude to me, together
“ with her profuseness in running me out of all
“ my substance, and delighting herself at the
“ expence of my honour and happiness; I told
“ her if she would give me but some satisfaction
“ that she would have nothing more to do with
“ Bonner, I would forgive and forget all that
“ was past: upon which she wished the devil
“ might have her if she had, except she met him
“ in the street accidentally. Notwithstanding
“ this, coming home, I caught them toge-
“ ther again, and I being going out I told
“ him it was his best way to be gone before I
“ came

“ came back, for I was bent upon mischief ;
“ and returning again about half an hour after,
“ I found him there ; and then I had a scuffle,
“ and Bonner asked me for a pistol, but I told
“ him I had none ; then he fell a cursing and
“ damning, and told me again he had more
“ right to her than I had, and knew her before
“ I did, and bid me fight for her ; but I told
“ him I had no occasion to fight for her, for she
“ was mine by law : upon which my wife said,
“ I did not deserve a wife, if I had not courage
“ to fight for her ; but I not being a fighting
“ man refused it. Then Bonner told me he
“ would sacrifice my soul wherever he met me,
“ and then threw his glove at me several times,
“ and in an imperious manner, commanded me
“ to meet him at Oliver’s Mount. At last,
“ considering the life I lived was worse than any
“ death, and that no apprehensions could be
“ worse than those I was possessed of, I agreed
“ to it, and went up stairs for a pistol that was
“ always in the house for defence of it, and
“ went out, telling the deceased I was going to
“ the place appointed, where I being arrived,
“ staid two hours, and Bonner never came.
“ Then I went home again, and found him
“ there, and asked him why he did not meet
“ me ? He replied, it was not worth his while,
“ he would take his own time for it, and getting
“ up with a knife in his hand, took hold of me,
“ and then the pistol went off.”

These circumstances being confirmed by witnesses he called, the Jury found him guilty of manslaughter only.

The Trial of RICHARD BROOKS, convicted for Felony, with the strange manner of his Acquittal.

RICHARD BROOKS, of St. Botolph Aldgate was indicted at the Old Bailey, May 18, 1716, for stealing a fan, a black hood, and two gold rings, value forty five shillings, in the dwelling-house of Walter Jones.

The prosecutor deposed, the prisoner had been her lodger, and that the goods being lost, she had reason to suspect the prisoner, because some time after he was gone away, the fan was found on the tester of the bed. But the greatest incitement to the prosecution proceeded from a modern piece of conjuration, by placing a key on the 18th, 19th, 20th, and 21st verses of the 50th psalm, and then naming the persons suspected; which being done by Mrs. Jones, and another woman or two, the key, as they said, turned round, at the mention of the prisoner's name, and fell down, and this confirmed her that he was the person who stole the goods.

But this not satisfying the Jury, he was acquitted.

The Trial of WILLIAM WHITE, THOMAS THURLAND, and JOHN CHAPMAN, convicted for Robbery and Murder.

WILLIAM WHITE, THOMAS THURLAND, and JOHN CHAPMAN, were indicted at the Old Bailey, the 18th of May 1716, for assaulting John Knap,

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gentleman, on the highway, and robbing him of a hat and wig, value four shillings, the 31st of March.

They were a second time indicted; William White for the Murder of Mary Knap, widow, and the others for aiding and assisting in the murder.

William White was indicted a third time with James Russel for breaking the house of George Barclay, and stealing divers goods to a considerable value, April the 1st.

William White, Thomas Thurland, and John Chapman, were also indicted for assaulting John Gough on the highway, and taking from him a brown gelding value five pounds, some money, buckles, a frock, &c.

To all which indictments White and Thurland refused to plead, but stood obstinately without speaking or holding up their hands. Upon which the court read the law to them; by virtue of which their two thumbs were tied together with whip-cord; and drawn with the whole force of two men, each about a quarter of an hour, which having no effect upon their contumacious humour, sentence was passed upon them to be pressed to death according to law. But when they found death inevitable, they relaxed, and pleaded Not Guilty to each indictment; and challenged all the Jury; upon which a new one was impannelled.

As to the first indictment, Mr. Knap swore, that a gentleman who had made his mother a visit a few days before, among other things in conversation, expressed himself very well satisfied with the diversion he had met with at Sadler's Wells; upon which she was very desirous

to see it; and on the evening that proved so fatal, they both went there together, and perceiving his mother inclined to stay, he went to the bar, and got a link; and then he and his mother stayed till ten o'clock and then lighted it and went away with her, without meeting with any accident, till they came within forty yards of the houses near Gray's-Inn Garden wall; where they first met a soldier, who proved a very honest fellow, but they did not like him, and in an instant his link was blown out, his hat and wig taken off, and he himself knocked down to the ground; which made his mother scream out; upon which one of them fired a pistol close by him, and immediately he heard his mother cry out, "Lord help me, help me!" and then the rogues fled: that then he went to the houses for help, and the soldier came to his assistance, and having a light, found his mother upon the ground.

This was in part confirmed by the soldier, and also by one Isaac Ragg (one of the gang) who deposed, that the prisoner and himself committed the fact, but that it was William White that killed Mrs. Knap, and confirmed it, saying, that they all had pistols, each of them a brace, and when they had done the fact, and went to drink together, they all pulled out their pistols, to see who had discharged, and found that William White had discharged one of his; and being asked why he did it? he said, to frighten the woman, and make her hold her tongue, which she did immediately.

White had also confessed to another person, that he shot Mrs. Knap, but said, he did not intend it, but only fired to frighten her.

The prisoners having little to say in their defence, the Jury found them all guilty of both indictments.

They were likewise found guilty of the other indictments, and upon the whole, received sentence of death.

They all confessed the facts of which they were convicted; and were executed at Tyburn, June 8, 1716.

The Trial and Behaviour of REBECCA DARBY, &c. convicted of Felony.

REBECCA DARBY, MARTHA DYKES, HANNAH ROGERS, and ELIZABETH SLATE, of the parish of St. Dunstan, Stepney, were indicted for an assault upon the person of Abraham Major, and robbing him of two gold rings, value twenty-five shillings, a pair of silver buckles, value seven shillings and six-pence, a silver tobacco box value fifty shillings, and eighteen shillings in money, the 13th of June, 1716.

Darby, Dykes, and Slate, were indicted a second time, together with Catherine Lawson, and Ann Bolton, for an assault upon the same person, and robbing him of twenty-six guineas, one broad-piece, and one moidore, on the 14th of the same month.

It appeared by the evidence, that the prosecutor was coming through Church-lane, where being met by Darby and Rogers, they took him into a house; and Dykes and Slate and four or

five more, came to their assistance ; who forced him into some old houses, where they bound and robbed him, and then uncivilly went away, and left him in a strange place ; but finding the way out, he got a constable to search the house and rents, but could find nobody.

The next morning he put the gold, mentioned in the indictment, into his pocket, and went to one Pritchard, who was one of the gang, but executed since, to get his rings, which he very much valued, and for two guineas he had them again. After which Pritchard advised him to take a glass of rum in the same house where he was robbed before, and being a very stupid fellow, notwithstanding he was advised to the contrary by the man of the house where he drank, yet he went, and Pritchard went to the prisoners, who were in the rents adjoining to the three mariners in Church-lane, and told them there was their cull, and went away. Then the prisoners and some others fell upon him, robbed him of his gold, and by throwing dirt, and other abuses, had almost frightened him out of his wits ; when his wife happily coming to look for her husband and money, relieved him.

One of the gang made herself an evidence, and confirmed all these circumstances ; and said, though she was not in the first robbery, yet she received half her fellow-woman's money, they being obliged by agreement among themselves, whoever made a booty to divide it in that manner : but the prosecutor and she agreed, that Dykes was not present at the second robbery, nor were they very positive as to Bolton. Upon the whole, Darby, Dykes, Rogers, and State

were found guilty of the first indictment; and Darby, Slate, and Lawson, of the second.

Rebecca Darby was also found guilty of assaulting and robbing John Whaley of fifteen shillings, the 21st of July 1716. The robbery was committed in the same manner with the former; and they all received sentence of death: At the receiving of which they all pleaded their bellies, as did several more at the same time; and ten out of twelve were brought in quick with child, but Elizabeth Slate, not.

Being under condemnation, she gave the Ordinary this account: That she was 18 years of age, born at Wapping, used to wind silk, and afterwards learned to make buttons; but for three years past, falling into the company of lewd women, she was enticed by them to the practice of picking up men in the street, carrying them to bawdy-houses, and stripping and robbing them of cloathes and money.

She was executed at Tyburn the 19th of September 1716.

The Trial and uncommon Behaviour of Richard Griffith, convicted of the Murder of his Fellow Servant.

RIICHARD GRIFFITH, of the parish of Hadley, was indicted for the murder of Richard Davis, his fellow-servant, by giving him a mortal wound with a pitch-fork, the 1st of February 1717; and he was a second time indicted for robbing him of two coats, waistcoat, and breeches.

Mrs.

Mrs. Taylor deposed, that the prisoner and the deceased were fellow-servants together to a gentleman, and lay together in the stables; that she enquiring of the prisoner of Richard Davis, on the 1st of Feb. he told her he was gone to Esquire Cæsar's, about selling a horse; but she not seeing or hearing any thing of him in two or three days, when she saw the prisoner again, she asked him if he had heard any thing yet from Richard Davis? he answered, that he had not seen him since, nor heard any thing of him. This very much surprised her, and the prisoner also himself having been out of the way two or three days since, she could not tell what to think of it; but about a fortnight afterwards, the deceased was found in a dunghill without a head.

-----Bishop, another evidence, deposed, that missing his fellow-servant, he asked the prisoner what was become of him? who made him the same answer as before. Upon which he asked him what cloaths he went in? he answered, in his own cloaths, and had left his livery in the stables. That some time after, being in the field, where was a dunghill, the prisoner, who was in the yard, called to him, and asked him to drink, and fetched a pot of beer, and afterwards another, appearing to be pretty full of money, and then asked him, if he had turned the dung yet? and he told him, no; it had not had time to rot. And the next morning, he having occasion to fetch the wheel-barrow off the dunghill, found a human skull, which struck him with terror; and it came into his mind that it was Richard Davis, but it was picked clean to the very bone, which he believes might be done by the hogs, which were in the field.

field. In this surprise, he went to the prisoner, saying, "Lord have mercy upon us, Richard, there's a skull upon yonder dunghill ;" but he replied not a word, and immediately went off. Then he went to a neighbour's, and told him what he had found ; who, going with him, found the body also in the livery, but no buckles in the shoes, whereas the deceased used to wear silver ones, nor money in his pocket, though he seldom went without.

Two women depos'd, the prisoner brought them some cloaths to pawn, or to sell for him, which were proved to be the deceased's, having first taken off the silver buttons.

Another witness depos'd, that the prisoner absconded a great while after the finding of the skull, but was at last taken at Richmond ; and, being apprehended, he confessed the fact.

The prisoner, upon his trial, seemed to be stung with the most sensible remorse for his crying guilt, not daring to look either Judge or Jury in the face. And the Court asking him several times what had moved him to commit so barbarous an action ? he at last said, the deceased and he had quarrelled, and upon that he killed him, but denied that he cut off his head. The Jury found him guilty.

While he lay under sentence of death, he was afflicted with a malignant fever, so that he could not come to chapel. He told the Ordinary he was twenty-four years of age, born at Hadley, in Middlesex, brought up to no trade, but had been a servant from his youth, and had lived with several gentlemen, whom he served very faithfully ; that he had never indulged himself in any vice, nor committed any crime before this

this he was condemned for ; for which he owned he deserved death, though, he said, he did it in a passion, being (as he said) highly provoked by the deceased ; he seemed very penitent.

He was executed the 19th of September 1716.

The Trial of ROBERT READ, for the Murder of Daniel Vaughan, in a Riot in Salisbury Court.

ROBERT READ, of the parish of St. Bride's, was indicted at the Old Bailey, upon an inquisition taken before the Coroner, for the murder of Daniel Vaughan, with a blunderbuss charged with powder and bullets, the 24th of July 1716.

The indictment preferred to the Grand Jury being returned Ignoramus :

The evidences for the king deposed as follows.

Catherine Bennet deposed, that she living over against the mug-house, heard a great noise on the Monday night before this happened, insomuch that she sat up all night, and heard some of the gentlemen there say, Come, let's go to the Swan (an alehouse in the same street) which they did, and heard them beat against the windows ; and, when they returned, she heard a voice say, Come, gentlemen of the Roebuck, let's drink the king's health. That about one o'clock they went to the Swan again, and, as they went, she heard them say, Down with the butchers, down with the barbers, (whose door was beat open) down with the pawnbrokers ; and

and that they beat against her door, but could not break it open, that she saw no watchmen or constable there. The next morning, about two o'clock, she saw the mug-house windows broke, that there were no stones thrown at them, till a gentleman came out of the house, and several more with sticks. That she saw a mob in Fleet-street, but did not see them advance up the court, but stood stock still after they saw the prisoner kill the deceased. That the prisoner was three or four yards from his house when he fired, and then she looked and saw the deceased fall. That the prisoner had levelled his piece once before, but it would not go off, and that she saw no stick in the deceased's hands when he dropped.

Thomas Moultsien deposed, that between ten and eleven o'clock that night, as he was going to bed at a house over against the prisoner's, he saw no stones thrown then, but saw some gentlemen in the court who went to the Swan, and beat against the windows, after which, some of them said, Come, gentlemen of the Roebuck, walk in. Next morning, about six, he saw a crowd about the Swan, whose windows were broke, as were those at the mug-house, but he did not know who broke them. That he saw a little gentleman read a proclamation, and a great number of people were there at the end of the court, many of them with sticks, and he saw them advance three or four yards into the court, but some persons came out of the mug-house, and drove them into Fleet-street, but at last were forced to retire themselves; and he did believe it was half an hour after reading the proclamation, before the prisoner fired, the mob being about

about twenty yards in the court, and he heard them cry, "Down with the mug-house." That the deceased was between the prisoner and the mob, and the prisoner about a yard and a half from his own house. He could not tell whether the deceased came out of the passage or not, tho' he saw him before he was shot, nor whether he had a stick in his hand or not.

John Bill deposed, that the night before, viz. the 23d of July last, after he had shut up shop, he went out for his supper, and, at his return, found several watchmen at the mughouse door, which occasioned a great mob, and he saw them throw stones at the windows, upon which two gentlemen came out with their swords drawn. Next morning he saw the windows broke very much, that there were scarce four panes of glass whole, but he did not see any of the watch endeavour to prevent the mischief. After this, he saw the prisoner, and granadier, go from the mug-house to the end of Salisbury-court, but were drove back by the mob. Then he heard the proclamation read, upon which the people advanced with great shouts for the space of three minutes, and then the prisoner fired, the mob being within twenty yards of his house, the deceased about ten yards before them, and the prisoner five from his own house. That he could not remember any particular or general cry used by the mob, but believed the deceased did not belong to them, and that he had no stick in his hand; however, he had heard he was a mobber, and also thought the blunderbuss did the mischief.

William Stratton deposed, that as he was going to work about four o'clock that morning,

he

he saw a great mob in Salisbury court, and going in, he saw the deceased in the Swan, who called him to drink with him, and then told him there was a great mob, but he was going to work, and had some bread and cheese in his pocket. That presently after, the mob increased, and he heard the people of the Mug-house cry, " King George for ever," and the mob, " High Church and the King." But the deceased said, he would not meddle: that then he heard the proclamation read; that the Mug-house people drove down the mob, but being forced back again, he and the deceased went out, and they parted at the corner of the passage.

Charles Tuckey depos'd, that he was in a balcony over against the Mug-house, and about one o'clock saw the prisoner come out with a blunderbuss in his hand, and saw the mob advancing from Fleet-street to the Mug-house door, hollowing as the people did in the Mug-house; and being asked what their cry was in the Mug-house, he answered, " King George " for ever:" that some of the mob had sticks; that then the prisoner pushed on four or five yards from the door and fired, and the deceased fell much about the same distance before the mob; that he saw no stick in the hand of the deceased; that two or three soldiers came out at the same time, and one of them fired, but he believed the prisoner did the execution.

Sarah Dawson depos'd, that she being a servant in the neighbourhood, was sent about eleven o'clock on an errand, but the croud being very great, she turned down a passage by St. Bride's church wall, and coming back again the same

same way, the deceased stood at the end of the passage, and she pushed to get through, and the piece went off at the same time, and the deceased fell against her, and frightened her; that there had been a disturbance all night, and that the Mug-house windows were broke before this happened; and that she had ever since been under an uneasy conscience, as fearing herself to have been, in some measure, the cause of his death.

Joseph Harris depos'd, that he was at work that morning in Fetter-lane, when he heard there was a great disturbance in Fleet-street, upon which he went there to see what was the matter, and saw the deceased, whom he knew, and a great croud of people, and asked him what was the matter, and the deceased said, he did not know; that he would not be concerned, but go to work; and that he had some bread and cheese in his pocket; that he saw the Mug-house windows broke, but staid but a very little while, and about a quarter of an hour after, he heard the deceased was killed.

John Holmes depos'd, he was going through the court about ten o'clock, and staid till half an hour past eleven, in which time he observed a great croud of women and children about the Mug-house door, and a constable and some men came out of it, and read a proclamation with three huzza's, and then saw the prisoner bring out a blunderbuss; which he discharged, and the deceased fell; who was about eleven yard from him, as he was from his house.

This witness being asked some questions concerning the mob, their cry, and whether they had sticks at that time, answered, not as he saw,

he heard nothing of it; he did not look toward Fleet-street.

This was all the evidence which appeared against the prisoner to support the indictment on behalf of the King. Then the prisoner called his witnesses, who, being sworn, deposed as follows.

John Boyler deposed, that he was at the Mug-house the night before, between six and seven o'clock, and about nine, a constable and several watchmen drew up in a rank against the door which occasioned a great mob, and as gentlemen came to the Mug-house they hissed them; upon which he went to the door to know why they hissed, but they threw stones at him, and at the windows, which had been broke once before to the value of seven shillings and six-pence; that afterwards being in the coffee-room, a stone hit him on the leg, and then he went to the constable, whose name was Owers, and asked him if he was not ashamed to suffer such things, having authority and watchmen to prevent them, by securing the persons who threw the stones; but the constable answered him, it was the people in the Mug-house that threw the stones and broke their own windows; that his hour was not come, viz. ten o'clock. After which Mrs. Read sent a quart of ale to the watchmen to drink the King's health, but another constable who was there refused it, and forbade his watchmen to drink it. Then one Mr. Hockes offered them a crown, saying, come, these look like honest watchmen, there is a crown for them to drink; but the constable made them return that also. Then a constable read the proclamation, upon which the other constable

constable with his watch came in and demanded the reason of that rout ; to which the other constable replied, there is no rout but what is made by your mob, and therefore they had read the proclamation to disperse them. To which he replied, you are no constable in this ward, and therefore are not to direct me, and then went away. A little while after, some mischief happened at the Swan ale-house a few doors off, and Mrs. Read begged the favour of some gentlemen to stay in the house all night, as he and some others did ; and about six o'clock the next morning the mob began to gather, and continued till nine, throwing stones at the windows, and seemed inclined to do more mischief ; upon which, he ventured out to them to reason with them, and to desire them to be easy and quiet, and not ruin a man who had done them no harm ; at which time he received two knocks by stones, one of which broke his head, and made him bleed very much ; whereupon he ran into the house for a stick, and drove them, but struck no one, except the person who hit him with the stone. After being informed that a united mob were preparing to pull down the Mug-house, they sent two messengers, the one to the Lord Mayor, and the other to the Lord Townshend, and it was not long before a great mob with sticks and clubs appeared in Fleet-street, making up the court ; whereupon they consulted what was best to be done for the security of the house ; and he advised them to attack them before they joined the mob in the court and became too formidable, which they did, having a blunderbuss brought them half an hour before in a coach ; that he and Mr. Read bid the mob take

care, and stand off, near a quarter of an hour before he fired, which was done about a yard and a half from his house, and then he went in to make a barracade.

John Collins deposed, that he was at the Mug-house all night for its defence, and the society was informed that a gentleman was carried to the Swan, for crying out, "King George for ever." Upon which some of them went in a civil manner to speak to the constable and know what he had secured him for, but when they came to the Swan they would not open the door; but some persons upstairs opened the windows and untiled the Pent-house, and threw the tiles upon the gentlemen, which broke some of their heads, and thereupon they returned some of the tiles that had been thrown at them, and broke some of the windows but no windows were broke at the Swan till after the tiles were thrown from the Pent-house; and that he was with the gentlemen at the Swan till after the tiles were thrown from the Pent-house; and that he was with the gentlemen at the Swan and received a cut over the nose by a tile that was thrown from the Swan, though no person had given them the least provocation; upon which some gentlemen returned their tiles, and broke the windows; and that the next morning the mob broke their windows at the Mug-house; and that one of their company went out and took a fellow whom the mob called Vinegar (who he believed was the person afterwards killed) and brought him into the Mug-house; and that about an hour after, he fell on his knees, begged pardon, and drank King George's health, and then they let him go.

After

After which the mob much increased, and he heard them cry out, "High Church and Ormond, no King George, no Hanoverians; " down with the Mug-house." But some gentlemen went out, and drove them quite down the street; but being repulsed, Mr. Read and the grenadier went out again, and bid them stand off, keep back, &c. That then the deceased was at their head with a stick in his hand, brandishing and bawling out, "Fall on brave boys, for the Duke of Ormond is landed with 20,000 men." And a little after that, Mr. Read fired; that then the mob fell upon them, and some gentlemen got away, but he and some others went up stairs, and made a barricade upon the stairs; after which they heard a great chattering and breaking of the goods below, which were thrown out for their more speedy destruction to the mob in the court.

Thomas Arrowsmith, a grenadier deposed, that he was at Mr. Read's house all night, and that from eight o'clock, as the gentlemen came into it, they were assaulted by the mob at the door, who threw stones at them, that a constable was there with his watch, but did not discharge the duty of his office, but encouraged the mob by his connivance. Next morning the mob, men, women, and children, began to shew their colours, by crying out, "High Church and Ormond for ever, and down with the Mug-house." At about eleven o'clock their number was very great, and he, having his arms, drove them from the door two or three times into Fleet-street; then the proclamation was read, which served but to increase their rage and number, who threw stones so

thick that the gentlemen were obliged to go into the house, and then he, with the prisoner, who was also armed, went out, and presented their pieces, bidding them be gone, have a care, stand off, for the space of six minutes, during which time, they were pelted with stones so that they could take no aim, the mob still advancing upon them, and hollering out, “Down with the Mug-house,” and then they both fired, after which he posted himself for defence of the house, but in a little time some of them broke into it behind, and pushed him into the court, and then he was so beat with sticks and clubs, and dragged along the kennel, that had it not been for the guards and Mr. Thomas Cheesbrook, he had certainly been murdered: others at the same time were pulling the house to pieces; that before this he saw no affront offered to any person by the gentlemen in the Mug-house.

Michael Burrel deposed, that he was going home about ten o'clock on Monday night, and heard a noise in Salisbury Court, (where he had been informed there was a Mug-house, but had never been in it) and saw a constable and some watchmen there, who, he thought, encouraged and increased the mob, by not taking care to keep the peace, or to prevent the hurling stones to the windows, though the persons who threw them were just by them, and all the action done in their sight, and stones were brought in baskets, and laid down by them. Being asked what constable this was, he said, he was told his name was Johnson; that after the house had been battered some time, the gentlemen came down and desired the constables, &c. as well as he

he could understand them (being at some distance) to do their duty, but he went away and left the mob there. Next day about noon, coming from his chambers to the Temple, he saw a great mob in the Court, breaking the goods in the mug-house, and throwing them out at the windows; and as they were gutting the house, and pulling things down, he heard some of the mob say, "Just so will we pull King George from the throne, which is none of his own."

Mr. Badcock deposed, that having been informed on Monday night, by a friend, that there was a design to pull down the mug-house, he being a constable, and desired to keep the peace, went to the house, and found a great mob at the door throwing stones. Being asked, if there was any rout or disorder in the house, he said, there was not; that a constable, whose name he did not know, and some watchmen being before the door, he desired the constable and his watch to keep the peace. But he replied, they in the house occasioned the breach of it themselves; which was false, they having done nothing that could give a just offence; that going up stairs, he heard a great clattering against the windows, and saw another constable, one Johnson, whom he desired likewise to keep the peace and disperse the mob, promising to assist him, there being about ten watchmen with him. But he replied, as the other had done, that the mug-house people threw the stones themselves, though he knew himself that that was impossible, the window-shutters being shut so that they could not fling any out; telling him also, that he had nothing to do there, not being

being a constable of that ward, the mob throwing stones all the while in their very fight. He also heard this constable say, the house deserved to be pulled down; and then one of the watchmen took hold of him, and would have pulled him out of the house: After which they came in, and made a bustle and disturbance in the house, so that he was obliged to read the proclamation, the mob throwing stones at him all the while. The next morning he went to see what mischief was done, and found the windows broke, and a gentleman wounded, that one of the mob threw a stone at him, and as he was about securing him, the mob knocked him down, and rescued his prisoner.

Richard Bennet deposed, that he had been at the mug-house the Monday night before this action happened till past 11 o'clock, when the mob was very numerous, and the stones thrown in great plenty; that some of the company going out were wounded with a stone, and came back to be dressed. The next morning he was told by one of his boys, that a great mob was in Salisbury Court, upon which he went to them, and heard them say, they would pull down the mug-house; and going up to it he saw a fellow bring out three bottles in his hand, kneel down by the Swan door, near the kennel, and drink the gentleman's health by the name of James the Third, and hollowed, and the people at the Swan hollowed too. He also saw the engagement between the mob and the grenadier who was knocked down, and his boy took some care of him, and helped him up.

Dr. John de la Cofe deposed, that the night before he was chairman at the same mug-house, and

and had received information, that the mob threatened to pull it down that night, and fearing he should want assistance, sent a message to the Loyal Society in Tavistock-street, desiring their company and assistance, if need should be, on that occasion, who came and dispersed the mob, so that no mischief was done that night; but a few of them went by with a harp and fiddle, playing, "The king shall enjoy his own again."

The Court then told him, since he had been a chairman there, he would do well upon his oath, to give an account of their orders and behaviour. Upon which he deposed upon oath as follows: That about eight o'clock the president generally enters the chair, and after profound silence is made, they always begin a hearty mug to the health and prosperity of his most serene majesty king George; some time after that, another to their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales and their issue, and all the royal family: a third, to the glorious and immortal memory of king William; and seldom or never miss a fourth to the Church of England; sometimes with a supplement, wishing she may never want power nor inclination to protect and encourage all Protestants; and sometimes without: For the rest, if any are inclined to stay longer, they fill up the time with other loyal healths of less note, as the chairman or president shall think proper; but never to the confusion or damnation of any person or thing, as the enemies to the government and them had falsely given out. Then he proceeded to give an account as follows:

He

He added, that he went with three gentlemen through the mob that Tuesday into the mug-house, about eleven o'clock in the forenoon, and they followed him almost to the door, and that he heard some of the mob say, the duke of Ormond, and some the duke of Berwick, is landed with 20,000 men. When he saw Mr. Read, he asked him what provision there was in the house for a defence; and finding none, he wrote a letter to the Lord Townshend, to inform his lordship of their danger, and blamed the prisoner for not doing so before, and bye and bye heard a small gun go off, which he thought a warning gun for the mob to fall on: for immediately after they did so with great fury, and he being above stairs with some other gentlemen, they got out at a window behind the house, and the Sexton of the church had the cruelty to turn a mastiff upon them; but they drew their swords, and told him they were in defence of their lives, and if he did not call him off, they might be under a necessity of killing the dog and him too. Upon which he called him off; and about half an hour afterwards he heard the gun go off, which he believed killed the man.

James Harbottle deposed, that as he was walking with a friend that Tuesday morning, about eleven o'clock, near the Rose Inn at Holborn Bridge, about a dozen men passed by him with sticks, hollowing; that he followed them, and asked them what was the meaning of it? They said, they were going to attack the mug-house; upon which he traced them, and at one Mr. Mitchell's, a soap-boiler by Fleet-ditch,

ditch, about half a dozen sticks were delivered to them. From thence they went down Shoe-lane, and at a brazier's, near Adams's the cook, they had more sticks given them, and then they said, "Come, here's sticks enough." That thereupon he went and gave Mr. Read an account of it. And the mob having armed themselves with clubs to their satisfaction, and thrown away their small sticks, they went directly to Salisbury Court, and after the proclamation was read, they pressed forward, but were beat back by the grenadier: but growing stronger, they returned to the charge with a very great shout; that then he went up to the mug-house, and heard Mr. Read say, "stand off, take care, &c." and in a little time the piece fired, the mob at the same time throwing sticks and stones at the prisoner and his house.

Mr. Carleton Smith deposed, that on the Tuesday aforesaid, the Lord Mayor sent him to the mughouse in Salisbury Court to see what was the matter, and he found the court full of mob, which occasioned him to go through the passage up St. Bride's wall to Mr. Read's house, and turning himself about saw two parties engaging, and the grenadier making along at the mob with his bayonet, fixed; but at last, they bore down upon him with a great torrent, the deceased at their head; and at the very instant he was endeavouring to save himself thro' the passage, he heard a piece go off, as the deceased (to his thinking) was advancing to the grenadier to close with him. He did not observe Mr. Read particularly, but the deceased fell down just by him; starting and beating one of his legs, and died; after which he helped to convey

convey him into St. Bride's passage, and immediately heard a violent noise of boards breaking and crashing, which made him think it was high time for him to give an account of it to the Lord Mayor.

Richard Revel deposed, that being sent of an errand into Salisbury Court, between ten and eleven o'clock on Tuesday morning, and he having heard of a great disturbance there the night before, was willing to see what would be the consequence. Whilst he was observing, he saw a great mob come up the court, and a constable came out and read a proclamation, and then the gentlemen huzza'd for king George, and he huzza'd himself, and the mob huzza'd; after which he advanced towards the house, and Mr. Read and some gentlemen came out and fought the mob, but were beat at last, and forced to return; and then the mob, who had sticks in their hands, cried out, "High Church" and Ormond, no King George; no Hanoverians; down with the mug-house," louder than ever: Being asked, whether many of them said so? answered, it was universal. Then he saw the prisoner come to the door and lean there, and the deceased, with a stick in his hand like a quarter-staff, was making up to Mr. Read when he fell; and that he saw some of the mob fling sticks and bricks at the house, whilst others advanced with sticks in their hands.

Paul Burdeau deposed, that he was in Salisbury Court that Tuesday morning, and saw a violent mob assaulting the mug-house, and going into the coach and horses, an alehouse over against Mr. Read, he saw three or four constables; at which he was surprised, there being

so much need of their assistance elsewhere, and therefore told them he was ashamed to see so many constables in that house, when just by there was so great a call for their duty; and then they went out, but he did not see them afterwards in the court: and about ten o'clock, as he walked about in Fleet-street to observe what passed, he heard a fellow say, "D----n that Grenadier, if it was not for him we would have a little fun;" and the deceased replied, "D----n his blood I will have him down by and by;" upon which he asked some who knew him, who that was? and they told him it was Daniel the Captain of the mob. After this, he heard a man was killed, and he went to St. Bride's wall where he lay, and knew him to be the same person.

Mr. Luke Whitton deposed, that he was at Salisbury Court about twelve o'clock, and heard a consultation among the mob to pull down the Mug-house; upon which he went to Mr. Read and told him of it; and then the proclamation was read, which served but to increase them, who made greater shouts; and he saw Daniel Vaughan knock down a soldier; after which the mob pressed forward with Vaughan at their head, crying, "High Church and Ormond, down with the Mug-house;" and thereupon he bid the prisoner fire. "You have law, you have justice, you have reason on your side, why don't you fire?" And presently the deceased fell, and dropt his stick.

Mr. Edward Harding deposed, he saw the deceased throw a stone at two soldiers, as big as his two fists about an hour or two before, as

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they were going up to the Mug-house ; he knew him very well, and some of the mob called him Vinegar, others, little Daniel. After he was killed, he saw the mob destroy all the goods they could come at in the Mug-house, and soon after a fellow came out with three bottles, and drank the Pretender's health, between twelve and one o'clock.

The prisoner had a great many persons of credit to speak to his character ; but the Court thinking it needless, they were not examined ; and the Jury acquitted him.



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